

Halo: Wild Within

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Summary: There is a new program ONI is initiating, one that pushes the human DNA... and ethics. Watch as a group of Spartans rise above the rest and become humanity's defenders. Enjoy! Critique and praise welcome!

## 1. Prologue

**\*\*Hey all! I have been a longtime member of FanFiction and posted a long dead story way back. I am back and I (believe) have a better writing style now. Just thought i'd say that. Criticism and praise is definitely welcome! Enjoy\*\***

\* \* \*

><p><strong>0900 hours, March 2543<strong>

Staff Sergeant Derek Griff walked through the titanium hallway wondering what he got called in for. \_Can't be demotion because it doesn't happen here,\_ he thought having gone through demotion a few times. \_What's so important to give Kilo Company to another Staff Sergeant? \_Once he reached the door he stood there for a few seconds letting the scanner look over him, then it opened into a shady room with a bright table in the middle, lights shining on the table alone. No one sat there. He went sit in one of the chairs and sat contemplating.

Then two men and one woman walked in and took places on the other side of the table. The first man was young with the stars of a Vice Admiral along with neatly carved cheek bones and brown hair; he seemed the most human of them. The second man was aged with graying hair and pale skin, and the woman around fifty had short trimmed hair that was jet black for her age.

"We cannot exchange our names with you Staff Sergeant Griff except the fact that we are the ones that are solely responsible for this," the woman said coldly. "We want you for a special mission," she said

with her icy tone dropping a portfolio labeled "Confidential" on the table. Griff picked it up almost feeling the coldness from the woman's hand and looked through it.

"I saw more than once in this the word SPARTAN, what is this?" Griff asked puzzled. \_They already have two Spartan Programs. Bringing another one in would cause even more controversy. \_

"You are to train a new generation of Spartans; you will be the head trainer of the Spartan Armada Project along with Spartan Petty Officer Second Classes Jerome-092, Douglas-042, and Alice-130." Saying every word casually. "These will be children trainees but not as young as the other programs, they will be teenagers, fourteen through sixteen."

"First of all why me, second of all I thought those Spartans were dead, and third of all what the hell are you thinking?" Griff said not fearing the old woman that he figured out was Margaret Parangosky and nobody crossed her without living. The other two he still did not recognize.

"We chose you because you've got guts and because you aren't afraid to do what many can't do which is winning by any means. Now the Spartans you're working with appeared on the \_Spirit of Fire\_ on the edge of the Sol System after the Battle of Apex and were after a time sent to Earth to prepare the camp for training," the younger man said.

\_I will win by any means but I still care for my soldiers and they would do the same for me, \_he argued in his head silently. "So do I have a choice?"

"You do, but I doubt you will back down. I must warn you, things you do will be against every moral you have but we ask you to pull through for us if you choose to accept," the older man said gruffly.

They all looked at him with unreadable expressions and he began thinking of his choices. \_If I say no I'll be sitting around with my company "guarding" UNSC bases that don't need guarding, but if I say yes I can train Spartans, Spartans that could win the war. \_"I'll do it," Griff said simply. No need for speeches.

"Good," Parangosky said her iciness melting away for a second then freezing again. "You will be sent to Earth immediately with a more pronounce briefing. You are dismissed."

All three got up and walked back to the door they came from and left him in the room alone. \_Well if this is to win the war I'll do it. To save humanity. \_He got up and walked out of the door a Private was at the door waiting for his arrival. He saluted and waited for the order to relax. Griff didn't really like that, he'd rather the soldiers more relaxed but he just dealt with.

"At ease, soldier."

"Sir I am here to bring you to your Pelican to Montana," he said.

"Lead on," Griff replied. The soldier began walking down the long

hallway ready to face the long years to come.

\* \* \*

><p><strong>1400 hours, March 2543<strong>

Griff stepped on to the uneven ground of a random forest in Montana where the construction of the camp were pretty much done. He strode away from the cacophonous sound of the Pelican to the meeting room of the Camp. The forest was cleared around the camp and from where he was located he could see the medium size Meeting Room to his upper left and the Mess Hall to his upper right with the Barracks behind them. Elsewhere there was construction for big things he didn't recognize. He then walked over to the room and stepped in to see three Spartans saluting before he could register it. \_Never met a Spartan in person, truly amazing, \_he thought.

"At ease soldiers," he said with a grin. "You," he looked at the tallest one "must be Jerome," Griff said without saying the Spartan's numbers afterward. It was a fellow soldier, not a robot. "Good to meet Spartans in person." They had UNSC fatigues on. Jerome was an African-American with short hair and a scar on his chin. Alice was a pale woman with UNSC standard length black hair. Douglas had a light tan with brown hair trimmed nicely. They all had a straight but bright face on looking happy to be back on Earth.

"Good to meet you sir," he replied simply.

"I don't mean to interrupt, but I must get you all briefed," an ONI operative said with a straight face.

"Excuse me for that," Griff replied taking a seat with the other Spartans in the auditorium like room.

"Now as you know Spartans Jerome-092, Alice-130, and Douglas-042 participated in The Battle of Arcadia and Battle of Shield World 0459 and were reportedly missing with the rest of the crew of the \_Spirit of Fire\_. The truth is we found them on the brink of their ship losing all power and kept it a secret." The operative stated pausing to gauge their reactions.

Griff looked at the three Spartans and they simply nodded. He was beyond shocked those men and women were thought to be dead and gone, even had a memorial for them. \_Why would ONI do that?\_

"We kept it a secret so we would have an unknown factor to assist us deep behind the enemy line. It was a success for awhile until their stealth ship was critically damaged. We sent them to Reach where they had down time. Then these three Spartans," he motioned to them "Were asked to train a new generation of Spartans, they agreed and here we are," he ended with a smile.

Griff shook his head out of amazement or disbelief he didn't know but what he did know was that if ONI was behind this it wouldn't be very high on his to-do list. \_It's for humanity\_, he reminded himself grimly.

"Now we are here, the great outdoors of Montana in Camp Semper Fi," he said.

Griff thought he heard a scoff from one of the Spartans. He cracked a smile, Always faithful my ass he thought.

"The facility schematics are in these files along with the candidates," he handed them to Griff and passed them out. "I'll talk about the procedures in person."

"What procedures are we talking about," Griff asked.

"Well first you're going to train them with various procedures used with the Spartan IIs and Spartan IIIs along with a few **\*\*new** **\*\*procedures**. They will also receive the Spartan IIs augmentations and a more advanced second set of augmentations that we will inform you of at a later date." He said pausing for questions.

"Well I read in here there will be fifty members for the first **\*\*company\*\***. There will be more?" Alice asked her tone borderline threatening to which Griff was shocked.

"Yes this group will be the test subjects so to speak. After them the other companies will be numbered in the hundreds, if this company survives," he replied pointedly. Alice nodded still looking on edge.

"Now if you will follow me I'll give you a tour of the place," he said oblivious of the Spartan's tone. Griff stood up and glanced at the other Spartans. How do they expect Spartans, ones taken from their families as a young child, to train these kids without even a doubt in what they're doing, insane Griff thought and saw them with similar looks in their eyes.

## 2. Induction

I'm back! Enjoy! Thanks for the views and reviews!

\* \* \*

><p><strong>2100 hours, June 2543<strong>

Jake Evers walked from the locker room after a long grav ball game, as captain and quarterback of the Wolves, to the bus through the night illuminated by the stadium lights giving the star-lit sky an inhuman glow. In New York, nights like these were rare and he savored it. People waved at him, some he knew some he didn't but he just gave them his pretty boy smile. He was used to it though him being one of the most popular kids in school. Jake was passing by some bushes when he was suddenly yanked into the shadows of the bushes. A big marine in all black quickly covered his mouth and stuck him with a needle that he slowly made him drowsy. Another person was there watching.

"Who are yâ€|. " he said drowsily his vision blurring in and out.

"You don't need to know," the other soldier watching him said as Jake fell down unconscious. "Let's hurry to the van."

The big marine grabbed him and hefted him over the shoulder and followed the lead marine. They tossed him into the back of the black

vehicle. The two marines got in and drove away. The bigger marine crossed out Jake Evers name on a list of multiple kids. "One of many," he commented.

"Yeah fifty **\*\*kids\*\***," the one driving replied. "It's worth it if they win us the war."

The bigger marine just nodded as they drove onto the highway his mind contemplating exactly what they were doing.

**\*\*1000 hours, June 2543\*\***

Ryan Dyvers woke up with a start and found himself in a bare white room with one steel double door and with more kids than he would want to count in the other bunk beds sleeping silently almost like they lived here. He began to piece together his memory of what happened when a huge migraine hit him. Wincing in pain he grabbed his head in his hands and almost fell off the bed. The person below him jumped up and hit his head on the top of the bunk bed. He was a fair size and a few inches shorter than him.

"What are you doing in my house?" He asked with an edge of aggressiveness, rubbing his head.

"I'm pretty sure you would hate this place if it were your home." Ryan replied calmly.

"Wait this isn't my home," he replied irritated. "Where the hell am I?"

Ryan was too busy attempting to recall what exactly happened to answer. He was walking from his friend's house in Miami when a black van rolled up and pulled him into it quickly giving him a sedative which promptly knocked him out.

"Hey, what's your name," the kid said below him, snapping his attention away from Ryan's mind.

"Ryan Dyvers, what's yours?"

"Ricky Rivers and sorry about before I was just confused," he said with a slight snarl.

"No problem," Ryan said quietly. \_A bit on the rough side, \_he thought. A guy that was a few inches shorter than him with black hair woke up much calmer than Ricky.

"Whoa, where are we," he asked looking around. "What's going on?" Slight panic in his voice.

"Your guess is as good as mine," Ryan responded. The kids in the room were now starting to wake up. Another kid that was waking up was in full panic mode.

"Wha-," but before he could finish a tall man with a short buzz cut and dark green and brown fatigues entered the room through the doors. He silently pulled out a pistol and shot up at the ceiling. The kids that were asleep instantly jolted up while other kids ducked. No one here heard gun fire in real life before.

"File into four lines, now!" he barked. Ryan quickly went up near the door behind Ricky and in front of some other kid. Next to Ryan was a pretty blonde haired girl that looked scared out of her mind.

"Hey, you'll be alright," he said trying to comfort her. She just blankly nodded and jumped when she heard the stranger yell at them to not talk. Ryan shook his head for getting the girl in trouble. The stranger then proceeded to guide the group of children through the barracks where there were multiple halls leading to God knows where. All throughout the building it's walls were a solid metal gray with a muddy orange trim at the bottom.

Soon they reached the door leading outside. The man just smiled before opening the door to bright light outside. It took Ryan a while to see again and when he did he couldn't help but let his mouth hang wide open. They were in the middle of a forest. Ryan had never been in a true forest until now. It smelled of fresh grass, with trees towering over even the buildings across the dirt clearing that led to other paths. Ryan felt a light tap as the kid behind him pointed ahead of him to catch up. Ryan jogged until he caught up to Ricky.

"This is amazing!" Ryan commented quietly to Ricky as they took a left away from what looked to be a huge jungle gym miles into the air.

Ricky shrugged "After a while it gets old especially under our circumstance," Ricky said ending their conversation.

Ryan began to see that Ricky wasn't a people person, but Ryan didn't mind as long as he wasn't on the shorter boy's bad side. The marine stopped and turned around looking at the kids.

"Welcome to the great outdoors! If you want out go ahead, we won't stop you but there isn't any other breathing \_human being \_in this vicinity. They have plenty of wolves to keep you company. Oh yeah and welcome to Camp Semper Fi." He then just turned around and began walking again. Ryan was surprised; they really were in the middle of nowhere. A few kids sobbed after hearing that. \_I really might not see my parents again, \_he thought his eyes watering.

They then arrived to a smaller building that was shaped like a triangle. In the distance there were more buildings, but Ryan tried not to get distracted. \_What is this place, \_he couldn't help wondering, \_and where are my parents? \_They entered the auditorium and took their seats. There were a lot more kids here than Ryan thought as he counted about fifty of them. Ricky sat to his left while the long haired kid that woke up on the bunk next to him sat to his right.

"I never got your name," Ryan said to the kid.

"Connor Parker," he said looking lost in thought.

Ryan nodded not wanting to continue this conversation either. The auditorium was pretty silent except for some chatter from the other soldiers in the room. It was daunting. Soon an older lady and another soldier that had medals on his chest stepped on. The lady was elegant yet strict looking. The soldier had a straight face and had longer hair than Ryan's but not as long as Connor's, he looked to be in his

early thirties.

"As you can see, you are not home anymore, this is your new home," the soldier said in a deep voice. "You are now in the military's hands." But Ryan didn't listen to what the soldier said after that he was shocked, but before he could think anything else Ricky spoke up.

"Do my parent's know?" he asked with an edge to his voice.

"Actually, they don't," the soldier paused looking at the old lady she shook her head and the soldier stopped. "But you- all of you- are here to become soldiers, the best of the best to be exact. I am Staff Sergeant Derek Griff and I am the Training Director of this Camp." He stepped back allowing the lady to step up.

"I am Catherine Halsey and let's just say I have experience with this sort of thing," she paused then proceeded, "You will be put through the toughest tests of your life, mental, physical, and emotionally but we chose each one of you specifically because of your unique traits and edge over others." She then finished and Griff stepped up.

"For the following years of your training you will be taught many skills. Some of you won't survive." He paused letting it sink in. "You will be separated into five cabins of ten, listen for your name and what Cabin, you will sweat and bleed with this team for a while so get along." He called over five marines and then began calling names. \_This is insane, I could die here and my parents wouldn't even know, \_he thought and he felt his throat tighten as he tried not to cry.

He then heard his name and went to the Red Cabin marine. Ricky was the only other person there that he knew and more were coming. Soon there were ten kids here and the marine led them outside with the other groups and stopped in the clearing. The marine stepped in front of the children. "Drop and give me fifty!" he yelled. Everyone was shocked and didn't move until he shot his pistol into the air. Ryan dropped and began doing them. He looked over to see other groups just standing there and listening to their marine. "I am Lance Corporal Matthew Salim; I am your "sponsor" for the duration that you are here. You will call me sir and nothing else, understood!"

The kids all huffed out a 'yes sir' still doing pushups. Ryan was just starting to get tired on his thirtieth. He could do pushups; he was in high school grav ball. A kid fell to the ground but couldn't get back up. Salim stepped up to him and kneeled, "Get up or you're doing fifty more, all of you!" The kid quickly struggled back up.

"Now as I was saying, you will be put through multiple tests that will require teamwork and also individual strength. I am here to make you reach your potential if you like it or not. We are the Red Cabin and you will be known as that until I see fit that you all are ready to have a team name. It is a symbol of unity, which you will earn." He said with aggression. Everyone was done and stood back up. "One last thing, you will not fail me," and with that he passed out the Red Cabin shirts and began teaching them the simple stances and actions of a soldier. This guy gave Ryan a bad feeling.

\_Why did I get this him, \_Ryan thought looking over at Ricky.

\* \* \*

><p>"You kids will spend these few minutes getting to know each other," Lance Corporal Sean Lafayette said. He was a cool guy that was pretty funny. He seemed to be the coolest one from what Holly Madison could tell. While the Green Cabin was talking to each other Holly could see other groups actually learning things but she didn't mind. She looked down at her Green Cabin shirt that she just received, <em>this is really happening<em>, she thought sadly.

"Hey there," a dark haired kid said, trying to follow Lafayette's orders. This kid probably had strict parents because only a few of the kids were actually talking, most were still in shock.

"Hey," Holly said simply.

"Well, I'm Kingston Drudi," he said sticking his hand out for a shake.

"I'm Holly," she shook his hand. He had a firm grip and seemed to be very well mannered.

"Do you think we'll see our parents again?" he asked suddenly abandoning his good posture.

Holly shrugged, "Probably not." Holly couldn't believe it but she felt calm, it would hit her soon.

"It was good meeting you," he said walking to a young boy staring out into the forest. He could tell Holly wasn't much for talking. And she wasn't, she only talked when needed. She just never saw the need to talk more than necessary.

A few minutes later, Lafayette came over and taught them the simple stances of the military and was very helpful about it unlike Red Cabin's instructor. After that all the kids lined up into their groups. Holly was next to Kingston and some other kid with mid length black hair and scrawny frame. They all began walking up the path to what appeared to be a jungle gym for fifty feet gorillas. There were ropes hanging high up leading to wooden platforms. They had spiral stairways around sequoias, rope ladders, and some actual playground equipment high into the trees, just to increase difficulty. There seemed to be a bell at the very top almost above the canopy that seemed unreachable.

Griff and the instructors stopped in front of the area and spread out each Cabin. "This will be a test of teamwork and endurance. This one time you will be able to ring the bell without your other teammates, but after that you must make it with all of them."

Everyone got ready to go and once the pistol shot the five cabins took off into the trees. Immediately her team split and she was left by herself, not that she minded she was used to being alone. Holly proceeded to sprint pass two Blue Cabin kids and launched herself onto one of the dangling ropes that was at least a foot above her. She began pulling herself up remembering all those times in gymnastics. Soon she was on a wooden platform around eight feet above



the ground.

She saw a heavy looking kid wearing a Purple shirt run up some spiral stairs. She ran after him and slowly turned the corner and saw he was looking at a drop that went straight to the forest floor. Holly had a great idea. There was a rope a few feet in front of the kid. She backed up and went into a dead sprint. She jumped onto the boys back and propelled herself across the gap and grabbed the rope letting go soon after to land on a platform that headed higher up. The kid flew back and looked at Holly with anger spread all across his face. She smirked and then ran to the monkey bars angled up.

She could see there were a few kids above her but none were Green, she saw the sun was at its peak glaring through the leafy canopy. She jumped down to find a rope bridge with a Blue member running on it. He glanced back and winked his caramel eyes at her and took off, going a lot faster than most of the kids. Holly thought he was kind of cute. She shook her head and sprinted after him. He easily jumped a few feet in front of him onto a rope ladder. She followed; the bell was probably about fifty more feet up past a few more platforms.

Holly was too busy looking up that she didn't see one of the ropes were gone. Losing her balance Holly fell and narrowly missed a platform. She screamed as she fell and time seemed to slow as another Blue member tackled her through the air making them both land on a more square like platform. The landing was more than painful, Holly's wrist was searing.

The Blue Cabin member seemed very prim and proper, getting up and brushing himself off and grabbing Holly's uninjured hand to lift her up. Holly was amazed at how he could perfectly time a tackle like that.

"Thanks," she said uneasily as she was still trying to shake off the hurt.

"The pleasure is mine," he replied.

Then the bell rang. They both looked up to see the Blue Cabin boy that she was chasing ringing the bell. Holly looked down angered and suddenly angry at the person that just saved her life. She glared at him and began climbing down with her barely useable left hand.

Once she was down a medic on standby immediately ran her to a nearby emergency medical center. It was a small metal box with one window meant to be used as a quick reaction area. There she took an injection and was given a splint for her broken wrist.

Holly walked back to where the other Cabins were waiting for other members to return. The Green Cabin looked at her with all kinds of different looks; anger, for what reason she didn't know, amazement, and even sadness. Kingston gave her a reassuring look as Lafayette arrived. He looked unfazed by their failure.

"It's your first time, don't worry by the next time you'll win," he said with a grin "I think Lance Corporal Montoya gave his kids steroids." He chuckled. That picked everyone's spirits up. Even Holly managed a giggle.

\* \* \*

><p><strong>I feel like I partially rushed this one, so expect better quality later on! I guess I feel extra pressure with actual viewers xD<strong>

### 3. Help & Problems

\*\*0500 hours, July 2543\*\*

Lee Riu easily blocked a quick jab from his opponent Rebecca Vern from the Purple "Fighters" as they were called. Some of their trainers allowed team names but Blue Cabin was still Blue Cabin. He returned a kick to her left shin and barely clipped her before he was pushed back by her into the chain link fence.

The area they were fighting in wasn't the conventional fighting ring. It was outside first of all and second of all, it contained some of the trees in the area with low branches and the cage was the size of half a foot ball field. The soldiers said they would need the space later on, for what Lee didn't know.

He dodged a strike to the head as he swung back nailing her on the jaw. She was stunned for a few vital seconds in which Lee kneed her right in the stomach knocking her over. There were 'oohs' and 'woahs' going around as she slowly got up. There was a fire in her eyes. \_She seems quick tempered, \_Lee observed \_I can--, but before he could finish the thought he was kicked directly in the chest flying a few feet back. The air was blown out of him.

He wobbled up and took his stance again, "Don't think too hard brainiac," the blonde taunted.

"I never think too hard," Lee replied with a slight grin as he ran at the tree trunk near him and jumped off of it and launched his body full force at her. They grappled around until Lee was on top and stuck her once in the stomach, stopping her in her tracks. She looked like she would throw up so Lee got up, dusted himself off and walked out of the cage to where Blue was. They all patted him on the back while he turned to see Rebecca stomping out of the cage.

"It was a good fight," he offered her. She just glared at him and went to her sympathetic cabin.

"Well done soldier, but don't let it get to your head. You could've made sure she was down," was all Montoya said nodding.

"Yes sir." Lee then proceeded to watch the next sparring match next to a cute girl Kylie Heyde.

She looked at him in awe and he just smiled. The girl liked him, Lee could tell, and he kind of liked her. \_No sense in not trying, \_he concluded to himself. As he was about to say something, he was interrupted.

"Nice one, but that line, "I never think too hard", yeah not the best, don't worry I'll give you some tips," Khan Riu; the pain of Lee's life chuckled. Well not really but he was close. He was also Lee's brother, which didn't help. Kylie giggled and went back to

watching the spar between some Fighters and Strikers (Yellow) members.

"Why would you do that?" Lee asked aggravated.

"Just thought I'd congratulate my bro," he shot back a smirk on his face.

"Sure, now if you don't mind I'd like to get back to watching the fight," Lee retorted. Khan was always the one to mess something up for Lee. Lee would get punished back home if Khan got into something, which he always did.

"Okay, I'll hop off but really, good job out there," he said going back to his Cabin. Lee shook his head and watched the fight blankly trying to think of something to say to Kylie.

Once the match was done each separate Cabin broke off to go do something independently. Turns out Blue Cabin went on a three mile jog. As usual. Lee was one of the first two people leading the two rows behind Montoya. As usual. And they travelled down the same path each time. But, Lee didn't mind, he got time to think. Next to him was Jake Evers, a really laid back person that was a bit on the slacker side, at least to Lee he was. He was one of the more athletic members having been a captain in grav ball. He seemed like an alright person.

Then there was Ian Rowse right behind Lee, a giant of a boy who was pretty funny. Jada Gracie was behind Jake and she was a loud mouth girl. There were a few kids Lee didn't really talk to after them except Kylie but he would change that. The Cabin needed unity if it would win it's challenges.

Montoya took an unexpected right away from the outskirts of the camp where there was no path. "Don't leave anyone behind," he called back speeding up.

Lee picked up the pace urging the others to follow. Montoya was like Lee's father, he rewarded you for the good stuff and punished you for the bad stuff. Lee liked Montoya, he kept them from getting lazy but didn't over work them like Red Cabin's instructor, that guy was a real ass. But then again, Montoya could be an ass too.

Lee realized that some members were falling back so he let Jake take lead as he fell back to run with them. They were Chase Baltz and Alan Larkin. The kids weren't bad and they seemed to be adequately fit even if on the weaker side.

"Come on we got this," Lee encouraged. The two nodded slightly breathing hard. They appeared to be pushing themselves harder. "That's it keep it up, we do this everyday," Lee added. The two chuckled along with him as they maneuvered through the forest brush.

\* \* \*

><p>Rebecca Vern pushed the bar up and down as she thought about her loss in the cage. <em>I could've beaten that preppy brat, <em>she thought. She then slowed down and placed the bar back on the rack. She could lift about one hundred and ten pounds, a lot more then when

she first arrived here. She was the only one in the weight room sneaking off to avoid "team bonding" that their instructor Seth Cliffton said would be vital. Everyone knew Rebecca was the most headstrong and resistant member in their Cabin. The second day of their training she hit Cliffton in the jaw for yelling in her face. He stared at her and made her do fifty pushups, all so calmly. Back home in California, she was regarded as as a "hippie" of sorts, an old term for someone that would defend what they believed in non-violent ways, although that last part wasn't her.

"You should at least try to listen to him," a female voice called to her.

"Alexia, if you hadn't noticed I didn't ask to be here, none of us did," she replied getting up to face the red haired girl. She seemed to run things in the Fighters Cabin. She came up with the name too. Rebecca didn't mind though, Alexia was really relatable and could calm down a lion.

"I know but we're here to become the best soldiers, to protect humanity," she replied staring her directly in the eyes.

"That's what they say but it's war, some of us will die," Rebecca replied raising her voice. Before Alexia could reply Cliffton walked in and she snapped to a salute while Rebecca stood there defiantly.

"At ease," he said to Alexia, "What Alexia said is true but also what Rebecca said is true," he continued. "No doubt some of you will die but this is for something greater than ourselves, that is why **\*\*I\*\*** fight."

"But I didn't sign up for it like you did!" Rebecca yelled getting angry and tearing up. She had enough, she was here for a month already and was tired of being stepped on. She ran from the barracks that contained the weight room and ran past a few marines just walking. She found herself running to the mess hall for no reason. She stepped in to see a rather tall and toned woman eating quickly and calculated like each spoonful was a punch. She looked up and didn't look a bit surprised, the lady just nodded.

Rebecca nodded back never seeing this woman in camp before. She sat a table away and put her head down trying to forget where she was.

After what seemed like hours the lady spoke, "Having a hard time?" She asked slight sympathy in her voice.

Startled Rebecca looked at her, "Yeah," then she paused "Are you a marine?"

"In a way," she answered with a slight chuckle "but remember this, whatever happens here, if you survive, it will pay off and you will make a difference."

"How do you know," Rebecca asked genuinely.

"Let's just say, I've experienced something familiar," and with that she left the mess hall to Rebecca.

She stared at the strangely wooden walls. \_Who was that, \_she thought, \_she was huge!\_ Inside of Rebecca a fire began to light, although it was dimly lit. What the strange woman said changed Rebecca ever so slightly. Sure she wouldn't become a military brat but she would try and see if what the lady said was true.

#### 4. Savior

**\*\*It's me again! I know my updates are very erratic but I will be trying to get a regular schedule going!\*\***

**\*\*Now the reviews (or review lol):\*\***

**\*\*Anonfox123: Thanks for the help man! A. I still have a few planned characters coming in and then I will be done. It might seem confusing but it will make sense later on\*\***

**\*\*B. Don't worry multiple things will bring them together!\*\***

**\*\*Now back to the story!\*\***

**\* \* \***

><p><strong>1200 hours, July 2543<strong>

Connor Parker listened to the A.I. teacher Lenna, a pink hologram with a formal dress on. The trainees had come to appreciate Lenna's nicer interactions with them in the midst of rough marines. Classes everyday was considered rest time for some of the trainees but Connor took it serious. She was telling them about multiple battles in humanity's history strangely enough most of them she told of were great odds against one side yet that side still won or accomplished their goal. It intrigued Connor so he was focused on this lesson. The girl next to him was Holly Madison; she didn't talk much but seemed to be intrigued as well. That was the only person he knew besides the "leader" of the Blades (Green Cabin), Kingston Drudi, his "best" friend here art camp and he wasn't a bad person so nobody objected once he stepped up as leader.

Soon Staff Sergeant Griff walked into the classroom of the Blades along with Lance Corporal Lafayette. When Connor first saw him in Induction he had no real opinion, but as time went on he appeared to be a calm yet strict person, someone Connor appreciated.

"Form up, we're doing something new," Lafayette announced. All the kids bolted up and went into their usual double line formation. Griff nodded approvingly and led the jog to an unknown part of camp. The woods got less cluttered as they followed the path past the sparring cage that was currently in use by a very pissed Red Cabin LC and an aged Yellow Cabin LC . It was a funny mix.

Soon they stopped in front of a metal box of a building that had locks all over its doors. There were two smaller rooms branching from the sides of it. Behind that was an area a few good yards wide with what looked like cutouts of the Covenant. \_Shooting range!\_

"Let me direct your attention to these crates," Griff said. "They have the standard MA37 or "Assault Rifle", the MA5K or "Carbine", and the M6G or "Magnum". These will be your first weapons to fire and you

are the first trainees to do so." He added that with a smile.

"Consider it a gift," Lafayette added making them all chuckle. It was about time they got to fire weapons after two months of training. "Now grab one of each and while trying not to fall over line up at the long table top in front of the targets."

Connor was one of the first at the table that ammo for any weapon, even rockets. He was between Holly and Kingston.

After a few hour of learning the basics of the three weapons and learning to clean and load they got to fire. Connor took a liking to the magnum; it was deadly accurate even to his untrained hands. The carbine was lighter and slightly more accurate than the assault rifle but the latter had more power.

A few hundred targets annihilated later it was beginning to turn dark and they had to return to the barracks along with all the other cabins. After everyone was done showering, Connor heard a scream coming from another cabin section. The kids went silent and only Connor seemed curious. As he left the others began talking again.

Slowly he walked down the cold bare metallic walls as he heard another scream it was more of pain than pure fear. He turned into the Fighters Cabin (Purple) to see a rather large kid beating the crap out of a smaller kid. Connor closed in and heard what they were saying.

"Where's my rations, huh?" the bigger kid asked punching the other kid in the gut.

"You seem like you don't need much," the kid huffed taking another beating. Connor hadn't seen either of the kids before but watching this angered him.

"Hey," Connor said his voice icy. The bigger kid turned around his eyes cutting like lasers into Connor.

"Mind your business this ain't your Cabin," he replied evenly. The smaller kid with brown curly hair just looked relieved but stayed there.

"Hey it's cool he does this all time," the Hispanic said trying to sound nonchalant, it didn't work.

"It may not be my cabin but it is a fellow trainee," Connor said articulating the last words clearly. All the other kid did was chuckle and get into a fighting stance.

\_What is it with bigger people, they always have to fight someone\_, Connor thought. He was pretty fit for kids his age but the other kid was obviously in some sports for his size.

Soon the kid was swinging at Connor's face just trying to land a hit. Connor dodged most except one that clipped his jaw making him back up. He then pulled a punch to the kid's stomach but it appeared to have no effect. Connor got clobbered in the face and almost fell down.

Calmly he got back into his fight stance observing the room; it was like any other barracks room metal with five bunk beds and nothing else. They were in the widest opening in the middle of the room. Plenty of battles were won through resourcefulness Connor thought, thinking about their lessons from Lenna.

As the bigger kid kept swinging trying to drop Connor's guard. He moved closer to a bunk and waited for his opponent to swing again. As he did Connor dodged to the left letting him punch the metal frame. The kid pulled back to hold his hand as Connor grabbed his other hand, twisted it, and kicked him full force in the chest. The bullied kid looked in awe at what was happening.

Connor then prepared himself for a barrage of angered punches that never came. Looking through his guard he could see another member of the Fighters had tackled the kid and promptly knocked him out, a girl as a matter of fact.

"Leven, why didn't you tell anyone," the brown haired girl asked sympathetically.

"I thought I could take him," he joked through clenched teeth. "But this guy could!"

"I'm Rebecca Vern," the girl introduced.

"Connor, Connor Parker," he replied with a hand shake. He had seen this girl before; she had quite the temper and resisted the training every step. "Did he always do this?"

"Yep, I dealt with it for awhile," Leven replied. He by far wasn't the biggest kid but he was here so there was something that was special about him.

"Well just thought I'd help," Connor replied feeling his jaw. He honestly wanted to help his fellow trainee out. He didn't want a fight.

"Your help is appreciated," Rebecca replied with a smile.

\* \* \*

><p>Leven Rodriguez looked in pure awe. The kid that bullied him constantly was actually getting his ass whipped! The savior was from the Blades and sadly no one from Leven's cabin were here, they all went shower. He watched as the green shirt kid dodged a punch that resulted in Gavin Jud punching the bed frame and getting dropped to the ground.<p>

Leven saw Rebecca tackle the monster of a kid and knock him out. A few minutes later after meeting Connor Parker, his rescuer, he was getting an ear full from both Rebecca and Alexia.

"You could easily beat him," Rebecca said aggressively.

"You could have stayed with us," Alexia there team leader added.

"You-," before she could finish Cliffton walked in with the rest of

the members to see the situation. All three of the children saluted as Leven scooted over to try and cover up Gavin. It failed utterly.

"What is this?" he asked as he waved his hand for them to be at ease.

"Sir, Gavin was bullying a fellow member and we decided to stop him," Alexia replied before Leven could open his mouth.

"He bullied Leven didn't he?" Cliffton asked already knowing the answer. \_Do I just radiate weakness\_? Leven thought slightly irritated.

"Yes sir," Rebecca replied reluctantly.

"And you knocked him out?" \_Cliffton must be a mind reader!\_

Rebecca just nodded; Leven could tell they would be punished.

"Instead of going to the shooting range the next few days Rebecca and Leven will go to the garage and assist in the maintenance of the vehicles there," he announced simply.

"Shooting range?!" Leven asked startled, they were going to shoot guns and Leven would miss it. Rebecca looked in surprise as well but held her tongue.

Cliffton nodded and then left the barracks. All of the members looked surprised and then slowly began to go back to normal.

"This is bull, we don't get to shoot!" Leven exclaimed.

"It was either that or let Connor get in trouble and that wouldn't be fair after him taking those punches," Rebecca replied.

"I'm sorry guys but we should get sleep, you know how it is," Alexia said being the ever so caring leader.

**\*\*The next dayâ€¦\*\***

Leven understood the schematics of the warthog easily. Rebecca just nodded confused as the marine explained to them what needed to be checked. He seemed to like the company as it was just him and another marine that got to handle the vehicles more complicated side. He left them to do the three warthogs on the left of this wing of the garage.

The building was huge it housed every ground vehicle besides a Scorpion and owned two Falcons. Why they had all of this in a kid camp Leven didn't know but he sure didn't mind. They had two wings on the side of the big block. The right and left wing was where smaller vehicles were while the larger ones were located in the middle. There was also a driving range behind the garage.

Rebecca followed Leven as he named all of the vehicles in the building. "How do you know all of these?" she asked.

"Video games, internet, the good stuff," he replied lost in his own



world.

"Well, let's get this done so we can shoot stuff," she replied rolling underneath the nearest warthog to reach the large transmission.

"Feel free to call me if you feel like you'll blow something up," he called as he did the same with a chuckle. This actually wasn't so bad for Leven.

\* \* \*

><p><strong>Hope you liked it!<strong>

\*\*The weapon models I tried to get as accurate as possible. If there the wrong ones drop a PM/Review and Ill fix it. As always feel free to drop a review!\*\*

## 5. Unusual Firefight

\*\*Hey there! Long time no see guys! This probably won't make up for the wait but it's here!\*\*

\* \* \*

><p><strong>1200 hours, October 2544<strong>

Khan Riu stood in a circle with his fellow "Strikers" (Yellow) as they were about to begin a live fire battle with the other cabins. They had been doing these for about half a year and Khan really liked it. They used paintballs but not ordinary ones; they froze whatever part of you was hit. It was a good twist to the game.

"We'll split into two groups of five. Khan and I will lead them," Damien Braudel said doing the usual leader thing. He seemed to fit the position well except he could be indecisive at the worst times. But what did Khan know? Anyways, they split into groups and Damien directed his attention to Khan. "You will lead the distraction, you know make some noise here and there but don't go overboard this time and have me save your ass. Again."

"I'll try not to," Khan half joked. Lance Corporal Ripten hated these plans, it sacrificed unnecessarily but it's worked before. The thing about Ripten is he was the oldest Lance Corporal there and considered very wise but Khan thought he played things too safe. No pain no gain, right?

The bell rang and they entered through the gate. The room they were previously in was where they had their armor and weapons. As time went on they got more complicated weapons, where first they just had pistols and assault rifles, soon added on DMRs and battle rifles even a Sniper rifle. The stronger weapons you had to find as well. Khan liked to switch his weapons up so this time he used the battle rifle; it was solid and quite accurate. Each of their "squads" had one sniper and two marksmen, the others carried assault rifles or carbines.

Now they were in the fenced off area of the arena. It included a river, a building, various weapons, and a bunch of trees, of course.

Khan led his team to the left of the area along the river at a slight jog. He and another kid, Ryden Seoh was up front scouting ahead of the group. They took a right crossing the bubbling river.

It was strangely peaceful for a place that hosted so many mock firefights. The trees were turning brown or orange adjusting to the seasons. Pinecones were falling and needles were on the forest floor. The temperature starting to fall ever so slightly. Khan spread the team out and motioned for them to start shooting into the air in small bursts to not waste ammo. The gunfire echoed and Khan could tell people were moving in.

"Becca get in that tree and watch the area," Khan commanded. She didn't reply as she climbed it. It was taller than most but not too tall, just enough to get a good FOV. "The rest of you hide and wait for my mark, we'll be getting loads of fire." As soon as he said that a green paintball hit the tree Khan was near. Everyone behind him spread out quietly and hid behind trees and logs ready to fire on his mark. Khan only chuckled as he ducked, "You see anyone?" he asked Becca.

"Yeah he's wide open and alone, such an idiot," she took the shot without being asked. Oh you know me too well, Khan thought happily. He kind of liked her but then again he liked a lot of girls. He heard a scream, it must've been a head shot.

Then the storm of green paint followed. Khan couldn't even peek without getting fully coated. "Becca, I hate to waste your ammo but suppress them as best you can." Khan heard multiple sniper shots as paintballs stopped whizzing by. "Now!" Khan screamed as he leaned from cover and fired as quick he could. The Blades were oddly placed behind cover due to most of them just wanting to get as many people as they could out. He hit some kid in the chest and he flew back a few feet while Khan had already switched targets.

That's when the other squad of Strikers came in swiping the others up. Khan hit another kid on his hand and he dropped his gun screaming. Once the paintball hit it not only paralyzed what area was hit it hurt like hell. Another Blades paintball out him back behind cover but they were both mowed down quickly.

"Clear, make sure they're all out," Khan heard Damien order. "Khan, over here." He went to Damien's position.

"We took heavy losses before we could help you guys and this didn't do us much more good, there's only two of us if you include me," he finished gravely. Khan lost two others in the little firefight. They lost five people all together, down to half. Not good odds.

"Okay we'll stick together, Ripten's probably steaming right now," Khan replied with a slight smirk. "We've been through worst."

They began walking methodically through the forest undergrowth. Khan heard gunshots farther away, signs of other teams still fighting. The sun was beginning to go down from it's peak. They made their way to a rocky outcrop with a good vantage point on the area.

"We'll all move up the path Khan take point," Damien ordered.

Khan moved forward around the base to the path. It was hard to tell

if it was man-made or not but it had a perfect way up the back of it to a balcony like view albeit a rocky balcony.

From there they could see pretty far since the trees weren't as thick around here. "I got something," Becca yelled. She motioned for Damien to look.

"Holy mother," he said trying not to sound scared.

Khan took a peek as well. It wasn't good at all. They could see the Titans had taken over the main base in the paintball arena. It had a rectangular main building and two separate rooms on both sides. It was about fifteen feet tall and had a garage in one of the rooms. They had two Titan guards out front. There were a few small bases just to resupply ammo but this main base had extra armaments. They had rocket launchers or any "power weapon" you could think of and the occasional mongoose. It also had plenty of turrets for it's protection.

Of course the Titans would have it they've been other third win in a row. A bunch of perfect brats, Khan thought, his brother was in there right now probably prepared for anything.

"DÃ©jÃ  vu," a kid from behind said obviously hinting at the Titans owning the base for the fourth time.

"Alright, we've seen the base plenty of times so we'll split Khan and Becca will serve as the saboteurs, get in there and wreck anything you can see. The rest of us will-," before he could finish there was a pistol cock as everyone turned around aiming for the noise. It was a Red Cabin member, a blonde short girl, pointing her pistol to the back of Damien's head with three others ready to shoot the Strikers.

\* \* \*

><p><em>Who would be stupid enough to leave their backs turned around while planning, only idiots, <em>thought Ricky Rivers agitated yet grateful to not have another firefight. They already lost more than half their team. Ryan's right arm was injured so that didn't help.

"Drop the weapons or we end you," Mary Austen said. She fit well enough as leader since no one else would listen to Lance Corporal Salim.

The Strikers put their weapons down. The rules of the game were the rules of war so taking POWs gained some respect. Being in Red Cabin made it easier to do.

"We heard your plan and it wouldn't work if you were gonna finish it the way I thought you would." Mary finally said.

The one named Khan looked suspicious as he moved ever so slightly closer to Mary. Ricky stepped up to him and stared him straight in the eyes. "If-,"

"Calm down Ricky," Ryan called from behind, "Listen to Mary."

Ricky stepped back slowly still threatening him with his

eyes.

"Anyways, we could do this together, a temporary alliance if you will," she finished carefully. Ricky could not believe what he heard, not only will this piss Salim off but they were always taught to never work with the enemy.

Damien, the Strikers leader, looked equally shocked; he turned around to talk with his team. Ricky took this opportunity to talk to Mary.

"What the hell are you thinking?"

"Look at them and then look at us, both of our teams would be slaughtered in seconds against that!" She raised her voice. "We haven't won one round yet; we don't even have a team name!"

"Guys they're ready," Ryan interfered quickly. Mary turned around to see most of the Strikers smiling.

"This is exactly what we need," Damien said. "And there aren't any rules against it anyway."

"Okay well we could send one of us to go with your original saboteur team and we'll join you to bolster your numbers and strategically be placed in the trees to draw them out," Mary explained.

"That's what I was thinking. Who will go with the saboteur team?" Damien asked

"Ricky," she answered simply.

Ricky was pissed but thought about it for a second. Ryan was injured so no use in him going in, and Yuri had a battle rifle useless for close quarters. Ricky was lucky enough to stumble upon a shotgun, his favorite.

"Alright, let's do it, it's getting late," Ricky stated with a smirk pumping his shotgun.

\* \* \*

><p><strong>Im almost all done with new character intros! As usual drop a review, and thanks for reading<strong>

## 6. Bittersweet Victory

\*\*1300 hours, October 2544\*\*

Ricky, Khan, and Becca were sent to be the saboteurs in their far-fetched battle plan. While the three of them went to wreak internal damage the others would surround the base and distract hopefully picking off a few members while at it.

Ricky was unhappy to be with two Strikers but dealt with it since his teammates were relying on him. He also secretly would do anything to win their first Arena Match.

As the trio walked down the cliff path to an obscure clearing their

other teammates would go the other way and surround them. Gun echoes were booming around them from other skirmishes which seemed minuscule compared to what they were up against.

"How come you guys haven't won a match? You have been close a lot of times," Becca asked.

"I don't know but LC. Salim makes sure we know we lost," he replied with a growl.

With that reply the conversation was dropped awkwardly and they continued in silence through the autumn colored forest. The smell of gasoline and gunpowder was fresh in the air as they approached the base.

They soon stopped in an overgrown bush that was mere feet away from one of the base's walls. Damien and Mary both agreed at 13:20 they would begin the assault. It was now 13:15 so the trio decided to look nearby for any chinks in the near impervious base. As they walked close to the wall there were ladders on the wall leading to the roof. The three silently agreed to go there first and waited for the mark, alert of any dangers.

At 13:20 sharp the infiltrators heard the forest explode with the sound of paintballs piercing the air and splatting on surfaces. At this moment Ricky took point and climbed the ladder quickly with Becca behind him and Khan on the rear. As he got to the roof there was a ledge around the roof with a few air ducts in the upper left corner of the base. In that area there was a lone Titan sniper taking potshots at the distractors with his back turned toward them.

Ricky looked back at the two other kids and they nodded as he begged silently to take him out. He moved up like a wraith in a cemetery, ready to take the kid out. Ricky pulled what appeared to be a knife but was really a paint dispenser shaped as a combat knife to do the same effect as a paintball by releasing the liquid onto the victim. He grabbed the kid by the forehead and did a classic takedown taught early on in their days of training. The kid dropped and could only stare in pain and anger as his neck froze up leaving him speechless.

"Nice kill," Khan said as he found a hatch leading down to what looked to be the center of the base. "This seems to be the only way in up here."

"Let's do it," Becca said.

"My kind of girl," Ricky commented taking point again readying his shotgun as they went down the set of ladders.

Ricky landed with a light thud as he scanned the room's corners. It was clear so he let the other two come down. The octagonal room was a command center with consoles and screens of camera views and had two weapon racks on the two opposite sides of the room. The room was lit by two fluorescent lights making the area appear like a surgery room. There were two steel reinforced doors one to the left side of the room another to the back of the consoles.

"Let's go with the door on the left," Khan said.

Ricky began walking that way and opened the door to find a steel hallway leading to another door. Ricky had a bad feeling about this door but kept quiet didn't want to look like a coward. He opened the door slowly staying alert, signaling wait to his group.

He was in what appeared to be the garage with two mongooses and four Titans getting them equipped. \_They're so arrogant they don't even keep someone posted on the door in a full assault, \_Ricky thought with joy. He went back to the half opened door and motioned four to the other two soldiers as he brought them in. \_They must be the last ones or they have some taking out the shooters outside.\_

Ricky noticed they were almost done and getting on the mongooses so he pointed toward them and signaled to fire on three. As he put three fingers up the combined fire of a shotgun, carbine, and battle rifle shot them with ease. As the group switched targets the other two Titans opened the garage door and revved out of the room with only splatters on the mongoose they had. Ricky cursed kicking the wall.

"What are they gonna do?" Khan asked mostly to himself. Then he listened and heard the absence of gunfire.

The trio ran outside keeping their senses alert and went further from the base looking for their teammates. They arrived near a larger pine tree log that had fallen to find Mary, Ryan, Damien and one other Striker laying there on the defensive ready to fire.

"What happened?" Ricky asked ferociously.

"There were more guards than we thought and they smashed our forces like a boot to an ant," Ryan said with a frozen foot. Mary had a frozen arm and the other two Strikers had similar injuries and looked terribly tired. They all relaxed and sat up.

"We took most of them out except a few that got into the base, did you guys see them?" Mary asked.

"Yeah we took two of them out and two got away on mongooses," Khan answered.

Ricky was angered deeply by their situation. They had a plan that was simple yet had a high chance of working but somehow was still torn apart.

"What do we do?" Ryan asked starting to get into his child like tone of fear.

"They most likely went to an outpost somewhere around here we could-," but Mary was interrupted by a blue shot to her chest. She fell silently to the ground and everyone turned weapons firing to find nothing but a tree painted red and yellow.

"Circular formation, it's the Titans!" Damien yelled. They all surrounded Mary and looked alertly toward the canopy and ground level. "They could be anywhere!"

Ryan fired off randomly out of nervousness. The shot echoed. Another flash of blue hit the Striker with Damien and clipped Becca. She quickly responded with a flood of paintballs that missed there

mark.

"Watch your ammo they're trying to dry us up and scare us," Damien said. "Break formation use evasive maneuvers when possible, spread out!"

Ricky barely saw the blue paintball come towards him he dived to the side firing precisely where it came from and heard a groan. All Ricky could hear was his breath and his heartbeat, the adrenaline was in full swing now.

Ryan, stricken with fear, ran toward the area the groan came from but was shot down an instant later from another area of the clearing. Damien and Ricky stood back to back as they gasped at Ryan's fate.

"Left flank!" Damien yelled as Ricky instantly leaned down allowing Damien to roll over his back and dodge the paintballs while Ricky shot where the blue flashes came from hearing a crash in that area of the forest. Damien turned around to get shot in the head instantly.

Ricky did not let that affect him as he ran towards the Titan. The enemy shot twice from a DMR but Ricky slid on a pile of leaves still moving towards him. Ricky was within five feet of him as he tackled the Titan knocking both their guns out of their hands. Ricky proceeded to punch the blue-eyed kid's mask. He kicked Ricky off of him and did the same. Ricky blocked most of the punches and noticed a magnum on the ground a few feet behind the kid and mustered the strength to push the Titan to the left of him as he dived for the magnum. Turning around on his back Ricky emptied the clip into the kid's chest and he fell like a brick.

Ricky stood up still alert and then heard the announcement. "The battle is over and the victors are Red Cabin. Report to the bay doors when revived.

Ricky fell to a knee. He won the Red Cabin's first victory! He could not believe what was happening. He walked over to Ryan who was being woken up by his suit and waited for him to stand up.

Ryan stood up and with a smile chest bumped him.

"We finally did!" Ricky said.

"No you did it man," Ryan said pride in his eyes.

Mary came to congratulate Ricky with a hug and a kiss on the cheek which caused Ricky to blush. He went to the Strikers and thanked them for the victory. They responded happily and were grateful to work with the Reds.

Mary, Ryan, and Ricky walked back to the bay area and they were greeted as heroes by the rest of the Cabin.

\* \* \*

><p><strong>Some time later..<strong>

In the Red Cabin Lance Corporal Salim lined up the Red Cabin. He

showed no emotion as he addressed them. "You, soldiers, did stupid things out there on the battlefield today," he started.

Ricky could not believe what this man was saying. He silently boiled next to Mary as he listened. "You lost an unbelievable amount of troops, and teamed up with the enemy who could easily have shot you in the back. As far as I'm concerned that was a loss in my book and should be to you soldiers too!" He raised his voice.

Ricky had enough, "And what do you expect us to do, sit down and die rather than fight using resources we have!"

Salim turned and looked at Ryan with cold eyes. "You do not talk back soldier! I'd rather see you die out there than accept help from the enemy! And because of that for the next three days you will all run an extra five miles in the morning and afternoon." The room was quiet and Ricky's hair on his neck bristled.

"Okay then, next time we have three members left in the battle we will tell the enemy to just shoot us in the head and be done!" Ricky replied not finished.

Salim approached Ricky and shoved him to the wall with enough force to make everyone gasp in the room. "For talking back you will get half of your rations along with sitting out for the next week in all team building activities. Do I make myself clear?"

Ricky didn't say a word and Salim punched him in his stomach knocking the wind out of him but he remained silent. Salim dropped Ricky and left the room.

Everyone was in astonishment at what just happened not only were they yelled at for the win but Ricky was also clobbered by the big marine. Ricky got up slowly and angrily left the room. Mary ran after him seeking to calm her fellow comrade.

## 7. Mixed Feelings

**\*\*Hey guys I'm back just thought I would say... I'm done with new characters! Now time for real story movement! \*\***

**\*\*Just to clarify:\*\***

**\*\*Blue Cabin- Titans\*\***

**\*\*Red Cabin- No name... yet \*\***

**\*\*Yellow Cabin- Strikers\*\***

**\*\*Green Cabin- Blades\*\***

**\*\*Purple Cabin- Fighters\*\***

**\*\*I know the names were difficult to follow as the all received names later on. Also sorry for the announcement taking a full chapter I didn't know how to edit a released chapter, lol. \*\***

**\* \* \***



><p><strong>1800 hours, October 2544<strong>

Jake Evers stood at attention while Lance Corporal Montoya talked to them about the loss in the Arena. "The overall performance was actually one of your better runs. You made sure to cover \_almost \_every possibility. But, I saw multiple times where your arrogance made mistakes which were small but in the end lost you the battle," Montoya said. "Never let the fact that you won the most battles cloud your perception ever, because on the real battlefield every situation \_will \_be different and each one is about what you do in the present and not in the past. Tomorrow we will review the battle with more scrutiny than before, this will be a perfect opportunity to really learn. Good night." He left the Cabin in silence. His tone was neither angered nor sympathetic. It was hard to tell what he was thinking, one of Montoya's traits that made you want to run away from him because of the unpredictability.

Jake was even more troubled about their performance than how Montoya felt. It was **his** **plan** that failed\_. \_ Sure it wasn't a direct cause of their loss but he was lead in that match. Lee, their leader decided to let Jake suggest something which they agreed was a great plan and went with it, which worked for the most part.

Before Jake got to Camp Semper Fi he was captain of the football team and a straight A student, but once he got to camp he decided to take a backseat and relax from being the "star student" he really was and just go with the flow. It was a unique place to do this but Jake succeeded in his strategy and was actually enjoying everything except for the intense moments of harsh training. The reason he decided to come out of his shell was because he saw this Lee kid as a rival and wanted to show Lee he could do the leader thing too. He usually wasn't the one to be a showoff but the rivalry pushed him.

Jake was the first to break line as he went take a shower. When he came back most of the Cabin was back from their showers as well. He laid down on his bottom bunk, not wanting to be bothered.

"Don't take the loss so hard." Jake turned to see Jada Gracie in her bunk right next to him.

"I don't want to be bothered," Jake said with a tone hard to decipher.

"Let me just talk to you for a little bit. I promise I can help!" Jada replied with her usual bubbly personality.

"Okay, why not," it was hard to say no to Jada when she sounded like that. Jake had started talking to her more recently, she was one of those girls that was cool to hang out with and was never boring.

"You probably think it's your fault, huh?"

"It is," he replied quickly.

"No, it isn't. Last time I checked you were the one that came up with the plan to capture the base and the one constantly reminded us to not get cocky." She replied just as quickly.

Jake thought about it and it was true. He knew the Titans were

getting bigheaded and always remembered what LC. Montoya told them.  
"True."

"So why are you so mad?" Jada asked truly puzzled.

"You wouldn't get it Jada." He did not want to get into a conversation about the rivalry he currently had with Lee.

"Fine, but remember that was one of this teams better runs in the Arena," and with that Jada left.

Jake looked around the bare room with bunk beds for the kids in the middle of the room and drawers to the left and right sides for their clothes. He realized the Cabin members were not too angered by the loss. They actually seemed content, which Jake didn't understand at all.

"They liked when you led," a familiar voice said from behind him near the door to the showers.

"Really Lee or are you just saying that to get me in a better mood," Jake said as he turned to face their "leader".

"I mean it," he said sitting in a random bunk next to Jake, his hair still wet from his shower.

"And how do you know this?"

"I talked to multiple people and they actually liked your style. They said it was "calming" and "non-worrisome" actually," he said with a serious tone.

"Yeah well thanks," Jake said still not wanting to talk to Lee.

"Just wanted to let you know," he said and walked away to talk to Kylie as he usually did.

Jake was now confused on how he should feel about Lee and how he led earlier. Was Lee really a rival to him? Jake did not know but he did know he was tired and went to sleep early, his mind still active from his recent conversations.

\* \* \*

><p><strong>The next dayâ€|<strong>

Jake walked out of the video room, near the mess hall, with a pretty good feeling. After reviewing the tape with LC. Montoya he saw all the mistakes that were made and realized there wasn't that many. \_It was just the Red Cabin's day, \_he thought.

The Titans got into their usual double line formation where he was right next to Lee and they jogged behind LC. Montoya up to the jungle gym. They went to the jungle gym every other day with the other cabins. This was, to Jake, a good team building exercise that everyone had an equal part in unlike paintball. Oddly enough, it seemed that the Blades won more of these than anyone else, \_probably because of the LC\_, Jake thought.

The Titans went to their designated start point while they waited for the other cabins to arrive. Jake couldn't help but think about their first day at camp, when they tossed the kids into this competition. He clearly remembered a girl that almost beat him in the Blades that he winked at. The girl was pretty no doubt but every time they got on the jungle gym that girl seemed to be more motivated than most. He never heard her name and he had a weird feeling about that girl, not one of affection but a different one. Jake had an ability to see things in people no one else noticed, minuscule things sure but they affected the person's behavior obviously to Jake and this was one of those times. She seemed like the type of person that held grudges yet was sweet at the same time like her need for vengeance was innocent. This confused Jake even more and he wanted to talk to her now.

As Jake shook his head to get focused the other Cabin's arrived and the gun rang off and as usual, the Titans split into groups of three and one group of four to adjust to the rule that you must make it to the bell with more than two people from your Cabin. They had a system of where the groups were the same every time to have different abilities in different groups consistently. Jake was with Jada and Ian; a tall boy with long arms, very useful in this challenge.

Jake took lead and jumped up some ladders to a wooden platform. The other two kept up easily as they sprinted around the circular platform. The months of training are actually useful, Jake thought. The trees used in the jungle gym were large sequoias all grouped together most likely genetically grown to have perfect trees able to hold multiple platforms. Jake saw a rope dangling from the other tree right next to this one that led up to a second platform. Jake launched to it and heaved himself on to the next platform. Oddly enough, Jake saw that same girl he was talking about earlier running right past him with four other members of the green Blades. She looked back with a fiery blaze in her eyes. She wanted revenge and Jake was going to show her to not mess with him.

He took the same path, sprinting after them and saw two paths one that had a rope climb net to another tree to their left and a rope bridge that hung sideways, so there was one rope to balance on and one to hold on to, to the right, they both led to the same platform and the Blades were taking the left way so Jake took the right.

As the Titans slowed down to accommodate for the shakiness of the rope bridge Jada caught her breath before talking, "What are you doing Jake, chasing after those guys?"

"Yeah that black haired girl she hates my guts for beating her here the first day of camp, childish right?" He joked grunting as he hauled himself sideways.

"Well chasing them is pretty childish too!" Ian commented from behind obviously the most out of breath. It was a wonder the kids were not afraid of death from these heights, a grim reminder of how the kids have been changed during their stay.

"Whatever as long as we get the bell first it doesn't matter," he replied coolly, finally getting off the rope bridge and somehow still sprinting slightly ahead of the Blades.

Jake looked back to see Ian the last Titan neck and neck with the black haired girl and catching up quick. One rule of the jungle gym

was no physical confrontation was allowed, a good rule during heated competition hundreds of feet above ground. Jake looked up ahead to see a flight of stairs to a small platform that left an empty gap to a square platform on the branch of another tree that was two platform levels below the bell.

Jake saw multiple colored shirts below the square platform he was focused on. A platform was ahead of them. It was a far way up and the only thing to help them get up was a short rope ladder just at the peak of what Jake knew was his vertical, the question was could the other two make it.

"Okay guys," he yelled behind him through heavy breathing, "to win this we gotta reach that platform over there! It's a long way up but if we can all launch ourselves we can make it! What do you think?" But as soon as he finished his sentence the Blades took the lead and hearing his plan banked in front of Jake and as soon as they got up the stairs they all, like orangutans in the rainforest, jumped and easily reached the ladder. The Blades were an insanely good acrobatic cabin.

Jake reached the platform and launched himself with no hesitation but fell short of the ladder. He yelled for a split second before two petite hands grabbed him stopping him from the fall. He looked up to see the clear blue eyes of the black haired girl holding him up. Soon more panic set in as Jada jumped grabbing Jake- as she had too much momentum to stop- by the legs and the black haired girl struggled to hold them and Ian also came and all four of them were about to tumble down to the forest floor until the other Blades helped her pull the panic-stricken Titans on to the platform.

Jake was in shock the girl who seemed to hate him saved him and his teammates from death. "Thanks," Jake said sincerely getting up and helping his team up.

"No problem," the black haired girl and the other Blades said, her eyes telling Jake so much more. Then she got up and started running up the stairs and just as he lost sight of her, Jake heard the bell ring.

The black haired girl was back in his sight, yet didn't look angered. "What's your name?" He asked as she walked back to one of the escape ladders.

"Holly Madison." And with that she left leaving Jake stricken with curiosity. \_Why did she all of a sudden change her attitude toward me? I gotta talk to her, \_Jake thought.

"We almost died!" Jada said.

"Obviously but I never thought I'd say this but thank God for those Blades." Ian commented.

Jake just nodded absentmindedly as he thought about Holly. He led his team down the ladder and met with the Titans who all said Red Cabin won. A big surprise. And then the Titans attention changed to the three survivors of death. They asked questions like "Who saved you?" or "Did your life flash before your eyes?" Jada was eating up the attention but Jake and Ian answered a few questions but then began to walk back to the cabin ready for their minor one hour break before

more training.

"That girl that saved you," Lee said catching up with the two boys, "I saved her life the first day of camp, she hated me for it."

"Maybe that's why she looked like she wanted to kill me," Jake remarked dryly.

"Well she obviously doesn't look like that now." Lee replied with a nudge.

The three boys walked back to the cabin together, all tired from their recent challenge.

\* \* \*

><p><strong>As always don't be shy and drop a review! Enjoy!<strong>

## 8. Rekindled

\*\*Hey guys I'm back! I tried to get some characterization/ action in this chapter. And also this is my first \*\*\*\*\_official \_\*\*\*\*attempt at fanfic and so far it is pretty cool! I'm definitely learning what and what not to do everyday and I hope you guys notice it. :) Enjoy\*\*

\* \* \*

><p><strong>500 hours, October 2544<strong>

Holly Madison woke up feeling sore, an odd feeling after being at the Camp for months. Holding those three Titan kids was an insane task yet she still did it. She couldn't let her fellow trainees plummet to their death, not even that guy Jake. But every time she thought about him she expected to feel anger but after that situation she felt a new feeling, one of which was attraction and curiosity with some dislike involved.

As she sat up in her bunk she saw Connor Parker also woken up. He was one of her only good friends in the cabin. Holly didn't talk much but to him she talked little bit more.

Holly went to shower and when she came back everybody was almost ready for the day. She got her Blades themed fatigues and stood in the attendance line next to Connor. The Blades morning routine was less demanding than the other Cabins and even the actual military.

"Ready to fight those guys we saved yesterday?" Connor chuckled. Connor was there to save Holly as she saved the Titans and today was morning time Cage day for her cabin. They would go against the Titans.

"Yeah," she said her voice fading off.

Before Connor could reply LC. Lafayette stepped in and they all saluted him. "At ease," he said. "You know the drill." And he turned around and with a jog they followed him through the building and

across the barracks to the sparring cage. Once they arrived they fanned out awaiting for the next orders. Lafayette called for Holly to come over.

"I appreciate what you did yesterday with those Titan kids." He said with a faint smile. "You saved their skins but if you come across one of them don't let that cloud your mind. Okay?"

"Yes sir," she replied.

"Alright and get ready because your second in line to fight."

Holly nodded and walked away back to Connor. "What happened?"

"He was just telling me don't get distracted if I fight one of the kids we saved," she replied as if she were chewing taffy.

"That's true," he said. "Are you okay cause since then you've been acting strange," he asked slightly worried.

"Yeah I'm alright, just kinda sore." She replied ending the conversation before it got weird.

The Titans arrived and the fighting began. Connor had went up against Lee, a kid that had a polished technique of fighting which seemed to be an improvised mixed martial arts style. Connor had a simple style; hit or be hit. He was resourceful as he fought though, reminding Holly of the story he told her about him saving some kid in the Fighters Cabin.

Connor dodged a kick from Lee and tackled him pummeling him to the ground. Lee proceeded to kick Connor off but it only served to anger him and he began to get hit harder. Lee finally got out from under him and kicked Connor in the face causing his mouth to bleed. Lee then waited for Connor to get up, an arrogant gesture in Holly's opinion. Connor got up and swung at him but was blocked. Connor's punches got weaker from fatigue. Lee saw the chance to counter viciously into Connor's stomach dropping him. For some reason the bell to dismiss the fight did not ring as Lee began walking toward the entrance. Before Lee came to the realization Connor was already on top of him and hit Lee in quick succession on the head knocking him unconscious. This surprising defeat made the Blades roar, this was a rare moment the notorious Lee got his ass handed to him.

Connor was sent to the med bay nearby to get patched up and her named was called. Along with Jake Evers. A thousand thoughts hit her as she made her way to the Cage. Everyone knew that she had saved him but no one knew her inner struggle with this boy.

She stood across from him in the clearing that marked the start location of the sparring match. She had to clear her mind in order to win this one or risk being questioned by everyone why she hesitated.

When the bell dinged, she took a dead sprint at Jake wanting to end this match quickly. Once she arrived, she launched a kick at the blonde and landed the hit on his guard which pushed him back a few feet. He had a fiery look in his eye as he came back swinging hitting her on her side. Holly blocked the last few jabs. Holly knew she

couldn't stand a straight up fight with Jake so she decided to retreat back and regain strength. She then did her same strategy but at the end of her combo she sweep kicked him tripping Jake to the ground. Holly jumped on him and for a split second she had butterflies in her stomach and that cost her advantage as he easily hurled her away from her and came back using a combo of right and left hands to break through her guard as she just laid there.

She tried and tried to get from under him but it didn't work. She began to really hurt on her sides where Jake was mainly hitting her and he showed no signs of stopping. Holly grasped the panic and shoved down digging up raw determination as she slowly inched the blue eyed boy further away from her with one hand, a very awkward fighting position. This caused him to slow his punching as he used more power in his legs to stay on her. She saw an opening and instantly hit him twice with both hands on the side of his face causing him to fall to the side in an attempt to dodge any more hits from Holly. She got up knowing she could not get into another grapple with him and win.

She went at him again, this time at a walking pace, and began a barrage of kicks and punches that mostly hit. Jake could still feel the pain from the headshots. Holly slowed down with exhaustion until Jake stuck her in the stomach with a hard right hook. She hit the ground hard and did not want to get back up, her whole body aching.

The bell rung and Jake helped Holly up. He had a slight sparkle in his eyes but Holly did not care. For some reason she expected Jake to take it easy on her after seeing the way he looked at her on the jungle gym. Holly felt a rekindling of anger that reminded her of the feeling she had the first day of camp. Jake was the epitome of annoyance to her, one day being an ass, the next a friend, then again an ass. Holly could not figure out why either. \_I won't let my guard down around him again, \_she vowed.

As she left the Cage he called for her but she silently walked away going to the med bay. Looking Jake in the eyes would cause her to lose it.

\* \* \*

><p><strong>As always please leave a review, your opinion on my style, story, or anything is valued!<strong> \*\*Thanks for reading!\*\*

## 9. Preparations

\*\*Hey guys I'm back! Thanks for all the views but now I need some reviews..\*\*

\*\*Also sorry if this chapter is a bit all over the place I had writer's block for a while!\*\*

\*\*Enjoy!\*\*

\* \* \*

><p><strong>500 hours, June 2545<strong>

Ryan Dyvers woke up in the Red Cabins room with a start. Everyone was running left and right. Ricky must have hit him.

"Get up Big Man, we gotta get dressed. LC Salim is here early!"

With that Ryan jetted up and ran to get dressed; he would have to skip his shower. He struggled into his clothes and finally ran into line. As he did that LC. Salim came in.

"Good you guys are actually up, now let's go." He said a ghostly smirk on his face. They ran behind Salim and were heading to the garage. His attitude was different today, like he was finally getting to do something other than boss around kids, Ryan thought.

"What's going on?" He asked.

"I have no idea but Salim is actually happy today."

"I know right." Ryan had a bad feeling about what was to come.

The Red Cabin arrived at the garage with no other cabins in sight. There were five Pelicans, one of the vehicles the trainees studied extensively in class. Their engines were on and ready to go. Salim told them that they would wait for the other cabins.

Ryan went to where Ricky and Mary were with a puzzled look. "What do you guys think this is for?"

"I have no idea, but I do have a feeling we're leaving the camp." Mary answered.

"Where would we even go? To Wal-Mart hundreds of miles away?" Ricky replied trying to discount Mary's assumption. The idea seemed to worry Ricky as much as it worried Ryan himself. \_We're probably more afraid to leave this place than we think, \_Ryan thought.

Soon their conversation went to various camp rumors of Covenant underground and other cabins started showing up. The Red Cabin was the most isolated group because of the myths of all of them being like LC Salim.

Meanwhile the other Cabins mingled together as if they weren't rivals at all. Soon Staff Sergeant Griff and three other people a lot bigger than humans arrived. They walked like big cats, graceful and with purpose. Everything they seemed to do was fluid-like and almost faster than the eye could see. The kids all paused as the three stood with the other Lance Corporals making small talk like they were familiar with each other. One thing was for sure, few trainees had seen these guys.

As Griff stepped in front of all the Cabins they all saluted. "At ease. Now today you will be going on a special trip. Once you are at your location you will be left there with supplies enough for one to two days. You must reach the pick-up zone within four days. There will be multiple weapons depots for you to use against who knows what is out there along the way. You will all be working together as a miniature company. I cannot guarantee your safety and I cannot guarantee if you're late; that we'll pick you up. You have five minutes before departure." He stated plainly. \_This guy is hiding



something, \_Ryan thought studying Griff's every move.

LC. Salim got the Red Cabin together and addressed them. "Alright listen up, no one is safe from the dangers you will face. All you need to do is remember what you were taught and keep a cool head. And no matter what do not leave one man behind!" He ended their loudly but not out of spite, he seemed emotional on this topic.

"Yes sir!" They all yelled for once out of want and not because they had to.

Ricky River's stomach churned as the Pelican flew hundreds of feet above the trees. He was never fond of taking rides on airplanes and this was no different. He kept telling Mary he was okay but he was not. He felt like he would throw his whole stomach up. Ricky sat there trying to keep his spinning world still as everyone around him was bursting with curiosity and fear at their next task.

"We will be arriving at our destination in a few minutes," the pilot said through the intercom. In response everyone buckled up for descent.

"You look even worse," some kid Ricky didn't ever pay attention to said.

"You're gonna look worse the second we get off this bird," he responded. The kid backed off completely aware of Ricky's bad temper.

The Pelican shuttered as it lowered to the ground making Ricky appear green. Mary burst into laughter, the only one to do so. Ryan just hummed trying to ignore Ricky's expression. Ricky glared sickly at the two until they finally landed. \_I hate flying with all my heart, \_he thought dizzily.

"We have landed." And with that Ricky unbuckled his seat and ran out as the hatch opened and hurled barely out of sight of the other trainees who all almost threw up themselves but Ricky did not care he just needed to get better.

Once he was done he almost fell over. They landed in what seemed to be a small cliff above an expansive view of a deep valley with a clear flowing river cutting through the valley to what seemed to be an opening. The trees seemed to be rejoicing that it was summer with bright green across the whole valley with few clearings. Ricky could clearly see a bear wandering around and deer curiously sniffing berry bushes. The other kids came behind him and gasped at the view.

"This is amazing," a voice behind him whispered. It was like a scene out of one of those movies about nature and how to preserve it.

"Attention!" LC Salim bellowed instantly turning the group around. "Remember what I said and here's a map with the location circled. The rest is up to you. See you on the other side!" He saluted and got back on the Pelican and it jetted away.

And just like that the Red Cabin was left in an uninhabited forest to fend for themselves.

Mary stepped in front of them, "Let's get a move on and meet the other cabins." And with that Ricky led the way ready for anything; he hoped.

\* \* \*

><p>Rebecca Vern stared at the cliff wall they landed near where other Cabins were getting dropped off at. All she could think about was the danger the Camp just put them in. They were kids left in a forsaken forest that even adults wouldn't explore. <em>And that's the root to the issue. We are kids being treated like veteran marines! We can die at any second! <em>She thought fiercely as the Cabin began to group around Alexia, their leader. But this made Rebecca stronger in her tasks because what other way to fight it than to beat it!

She headed over to the circle to see what Alexia was saying. "Okay this is a new challenge to all of us but we have help from the other cabins. They've landed above us and will all move to the foot of this cliff. Once there Rebecca and I will converse with the others, try to get a bearing of the surrounding area but don't go too far away." And with that Rebecca instantly went to where Alexia was.

"What do you think we should tell the others?" She asked. Rebecca may be a free spirit but she knew when it was a time to shut up and work.

"Well, I think we should stay together. The map says we are about five miles from the river, I believe that is our first goal. We can have two scout teams further up and keep an eye out for weapon depots. I'm going to feel a lot better with a gun in my hand. And when we get to the meeting don't say a word."

Rebecca nodded hesitantly as all the other Cabins came streaming down to the alcove the Fighters were at. It was a flurry of colors like the paintings she did in school. Rebecca shook the thought out of her head before she got attached to the idea. She followed Alexia as the other leaders and their second in commands came over. It was funny how they all thought the same way.

They gathered around a rock as they each pulled their maps out. Representing the Titans were Lee Riu and Jake Evers, Mary Austen and Yuri Dri for the Red Cabin, Damien Braudel and Khan Riu for the Strikers, and for the Blades Kingston Drudi and Connor Parker. Each leader was kind of self-elected and if the Cabins liked the leader, they would lead. It was an interesting premise.

"I believe we should stay here and send out a few search parties to find those weapon depots then we should move." Lee started off with. Jake was unreadable on whether he agreed with what Lee said or not. There was obvious friction between the two at times during competitions. Then again it seemed like the Titans were full of preppy perfectionists that all wanted to be leaders.

"Wouldn't it be better if we stuck together and moved immediately though," Mary commented. "We have four days to reach something that takes a person six days to make, we have to get a move on."

"That's true but what if a freakin wolf pack attacks us?" Kingston chimed in with his grumbly voice. "We need those guns."

"I'm on Mary's side with this one," Damien said. "I'd much rather take a chance than get left here!"

"Alright we'll take a vote," Jake said stopping any other arguments. "Raise your hand if you want to look for weapons before moving on."

Lee and Kingston raised their hands. Everyone looked at Alexia and Rebecca who had yet to say anything. Alexia just stared forward at them with a straight face. Rebecca could see what she was doing, she would let her actions speak; a very mature act that Rebecca wouldn't have been able to do. Rebecca's opinion was always voiced regardless to who it was, resulting in a much harder time in Camp Semper Fi.

"Now those who rather just start traveling and hope to stumble upon weapons." Jake said with some sarcasm.

Damien and Mary raised their hands. Alexia winked at Rebecca as she stepped forward. "I actually think a better idea is as we travel have two scouting parties comb the forest around the bigger group." Alexia said looking at Jake with a flicker of fire in her eyes.

"Now this girl knows what she's talking about!" Khan commented with a smile.

"All in favor raise your hand," Rebecca said quickly cutting anybody else off. \_Enough planning more doing, \_she thought.

Surprisingly they all did after consideration. It kept everybody happy; something that would be a challenge on this trip.

"Okay, good," Rebecca said as they all looked at her as if it was her plan. Alexia nodded to her with a grin. "We can have three kids in each scouting party one from each cabin. That will be up to you guys to pick who. Also because of the uneven numbers the Fighters will send two kids for both parties. Once done organizing we'll be on our way." Rebecca turned red at the end becoming conscious of everyone looking at her.

"Will do," Lee said. Everyone went to their respective cabins and told them the news.

Alexia and Rebecca went to the Fighters. "That was exactly what I was thinking," Alexia told her.

"Really?" Rebecca asked with a giggle.

"Yeah, we're pretty similar!" The two girls continued to joke around until they reached where their cabin members were. The kids all turned their attention to Alexia as she spoke.

"Okay can Ayden and Gavin come here? As for the rest of you guys we'll be on the move in five minutes so be ready." Alexia turned to Rebecca, "Can you debrief those two while I help organize the others?"

Rebecca nodded and waited for the two boys. Rebecca took them to where they would establish the scout party while explaining their job. They were the Fighters' best two gun men and close quarter

fighters so it made sense to choose them. Rebecca spoke to them little but she knew them well enough.

Once at the area Rebecca saw Ricky Rivers for Red, Holly Madison for Blades, Ian Rowse for Titans, and Becca Tren for Strikers. Each Cabin seemed to pick their best fighters. "Good luck guys!" She said. Lee would tell the scouts when to go ahead.

Rebecca was back and looked over her Cabin. Their purple shirts glowed in the mid-day sun. This may be the last time she saw each of them and for some reason she had a very bad feeling in her stomach. They were really on their own in this wild forest but Rebecca would make sure to have their backs regardless of their Cabin. That was the only way to beat the system in Rebecca's mind.

\* \* \*

><p><strong>Please drop a review and thanks for reading! Happy Holidays and enjoy some nice hot chocolate!<strong>

## 10. Effects

\*\*Happy New Years! Hope you like the chapter. Had to drop something for the break! :)\*\*

\*\*Reviews:\*\*

\*\*1: Exactly my thoughts! Thanks for the review.\*\*

\*\*I will be responding to reviews whenever I get them!\*\*

\* \* \*

><p><strong>1600 hours, June 2545<strong>

Lee Riu walked next to Jake and the other leaders ahead of the group at the ready. In his hands was an assault rifle perfect for close quarters. In the weapons, to all the kids surprise, were real bullets. A realization hit all of them as soon as they saw that. Real danger. And because of this Lee was even more anxious, though he didn't let it show like some other leaders.

Lee scanned the forest in their immediate area and saw no danger. They were in the midst of a group of birch trees tangled together. The white bark with black tinges stood out from the green background of the overgrown forest. The trainees were attempting to steer clear of the overgrown bushes. They would have to go through this one. Lee could also hear the twittering of birds in the distance, a sound rarely heard at the Camp. Lee sneezed as he took a deeper breath, the forest not helping his sinuses much.

"Bless you commander," Khan said in a mock tone of seriousness.

Lee just wiped his nose as he ignored his immature brother's jokes. The kid would not be quiet for longer than ten minutes as usual. Rebecca laughed at the two as Jake led the way through the bushes taking point.

Lee looked back and saw the other trainees were getting tired. The

mixed colors were an eye sore in the jungle regardless of the Camp staff's attempt at trying to fade out there fatigues. \_We'll get a break after this forest brush, \_he thought.

As Lee stepped through the opening the other leaders left behind them. They heard an unnatural roar echo in the valley. Seconds later shots were fired, a lot of them. It was to the upper right of them. Lee quickly sprinted not waiting for anyone. There he saw the scouting party with Ian in it.

Ricky was standing over a huge reptilian like creature that the kids all had nightmares about. Something they knew well yet didn't know at all.

"An Elite," Was all Lee could say. Ricky nodded and the others that were a part of the scouting party all had wide eyes.

"Is everyone okay?" Mary asked as she came up behind Lee and stopped dead in her tracks. The Elite was lying on the ground weaponless and with thin armor. There were multiple gun wounds in its chest and head, purple blood all over the forest floor. The other leaders and kids came by and all were shocked.

"They haven't found our planet right unless I was mistaken in class," Kingston asked.

"No they haven't but then what is this?" Jake said truly puzzled.

"I have no idea." Lee replied although a small thought entered his mind but he refused to follow it until he could think out the situation.

"Well we have to keep moving and be more cautious. Scouting parties will stay closer to us as they lead the way," Alexia said snapping everybody back to reality. \_This will shake a lot of kids, \_Lee thought as he saw a few of them with wide eyes still.

"Alright back into formation people we got to get to that river before nightfall." Lee said getting everyone on the move.

After a while of walking Lee allowed himself back to his thoughts. \_Is it possible that they were placed here on purpose? If they were really invading everyone on Earth would be aware. But there's no way our trainers would put us in this much harm. \_Lee did not like this situation at all. \_Can't wait to get out of this hellhole.\_

\* \* \*

><p>Leven Rodriguez wished he was back in the garage at Camp. <em>Its way simpler than making a mad dash across a lonely forest fighting freaking monsters! <em>Lost in his thoughts. He had no idea why an Elite was here and he really didn't want to find out.

He walked with Sara Lowenstein a girl he talked to sometimes that was also in the Fighters Cabin. They were having a great conversation about cars- her dad was a grease monkey- before the Elite was killed by the scouts. Now they walked in silence tense and ready for anything. He had an M7 SMG, a gun he loved for its lightweight design but still had the power to whip the biggest monsters. As he held the weapon it shook slightly. He lowered it quickly. She was one of the

few people that actually talked to him and he did not want to ruin that by being a baby.

He looked around to see the sun was slowly going down and he couldn't hear or smell a river anywhere. He just saw the same green forest with the same trees. Leven needed some answers. He went up to Rebecca who was with the leadership team and pulled her aside.

When they were a few meters from the leadership they began talking. "So where did that Elite come from?" Leven asked.

"We don't know," Rebecca replied she looked exhausted. Leven looked around to see everyone was. The trip was taking its toll already.

"Well you guys gotta have some idea!"

"We don't know okay I've been thinking out every single possibility but I got nothing!" She raised her voice, the stress was getting to her.

"Okay okay sorry for pushing you. We've all had a tough time. We've been walking all day. I don't think making it to the river is more important than our sanity." Leven said for once being serious.

Rebecca nodded and caught up to the leadership. They all talked a bit and she came back. "We'll stop here for today." She seemed instantly livelier. She went and told the other kids and they all brightened up.

Soon the trainees were able to make rudimentary shelters for groups of five to sleep in. \_Those survival classes really helped! \_Leven thought.

Leven woke up the next day refreshed but very hungry. He ate a little of the rations they were each given, for once not being greedy with food. He looked around and saw everyone else was waking up. The leaders were already up and talking. Leven sat down nearby where he didn't interfere but could still hear.

"So what's our next move?" Kingston asked.

"Keep moving to the river." Lee answered. He looked a mess to Leven, probably didn't sleep much.

"No I meant after that." He replied. They were all silent as they looked at their maps.

"Well I see there is a rocky outcrop that seems like a good checkpoint." Mary said.

"That seems pretty good but we also need more ammo." Damien said. Leven was puzzled the Ricky kid didn't even use a full clip on the alien. He continued to listen.

"Why is that?" Alexia asked breaking her observant silence.

"Well if there was one Elite there has to be more they wouldn't let one of their men out alone. Don't you guys remember in class they

praise honor as much as they do their god? If there is more than one they'll be coming for us also and they'll be coming for blood."

And with that Damien paused for what felt like a year. \_If what he said was true then we're in real danger. We could die.\_

As Leven thought this he went back to his lean-to where Sara was and he sat next to her, trying to forget what he heard.

\* \* \*

><p>Connor Parker's mind raced with thoughts at hearing what Damien said. <em>But why are they here? How did they get here? Why us? <em>His mind was reeling.

"Okay I agree with Damien the scout parties need to stay ahead of us regardless of the dangers. We gotta find more depots." Lee said.

Connor looked at Kingston to see what his opinion was. Kingston's baggy eyes nodded, agreeing with the idea.

Before the group went to sleep last night, Kingston called Connor away from the group. He looked as if he wanted to tell him something that laid heavy on his mind.

"I can't do this," was all Kingston could say. Connor couldn't compute what Kingston just said.

"I can't stop thinking about if those freakin monsters get us, if I'm leading you guys the right way, if I'm even worthy of leading the Cabin when I react to situations this way. I can't do it." Kingston was so distressed he looked as if he was about to cry.

"Well I know what you mean. I think the same but, you have to ignore that feeling, push it deep inside of you and use it as motivation. The others cannot see that their leaders are worried, it only causes death." Connor replied truly worried about his leader. During their stay at Camp, Kingston and Connor had become the best of friends. They had each other's back no matter what. Some would even say those two together were the best pairing in the camp. For Connor to see his friend this way almost broke him.

Connor could clearly remember a time when his father on the Reserve found Connor in the corner of their house. Connor was crying because a few kids bullied him about his mother being white.

"You cannot show that you are weak Connor. It only provokes them if they see this. If you do not show emotionâ€¦"

Connor did not want to think of what his father said next in his memory, emotions about to boil over. He focused back on Kingston.

"Can you lead for me? I just can't do it man." Kingston replied. Connor could see deep in his eyes and tell Kingston was really worried. Without a doubt Connor would do it for him.

"I'll do it but the others can't know about it. Not now. It'll kill them. You have to stay with leadership and I'll cover you. Don't

worry about it." Connor would not let down Kingston.

"Thank you, thank you," was all Kingston could say.

Connor couldn't help but think about the reasoning behind this challenge the marines gave them. \_Why do they want to put us through so much? What did we do to deserve this? \_Connor thought this as he looked up to the stars holding a necklace he always kept with him.

\* \* \*

><p><strong>Feel free to review or follow!<strong>

## 11. Risky Business

\*\*I guess my other chapter fell through the pile of story updates so I didn't leave you guys for long! \*\*

\*\*Enjoy..\*\*

\* \* \*

><p><strong>1200 hours, June 2545<strong>

Jake Evers sighed after he took a huge gulp of water from the river. He was rationing even his water so he was borderline dehydrated. Jada smiled at him as she did the same. The whole group had made it to the river without a hitch and were at the river like it was a picnic. The sun was in the middle of the sky glimmering off the flowing water. The edge of the water where Jada and Jake sat was sandy with a mix of larger rocks. The water was blue-green and seemed to go farther through the valley. It was actually beautiful to Jake.

The cabin members were either sitting on the river shore talking to each other or sitting closer to the forest sleeping getting a much needed break.

"I think we can stay here for the whole day, huh?" She asked with a giggle. She seemed to really take a liking to Jake and he could say the same for himself but he also had Holly in his mind that mysterious girl that one moment hated him then the next was batting her eyelashes at him.

"I would not mind but I doubt it. We have to get there earlier than we need to especially with the alien problem." He replied trying to make what he said light.

"That's exactly true," a voice behind Jake said. Turning around he identified it to be Rebecca Vern, a girl he never really talked to besides their leader meeting. Taking the hint Jada went back to the main group reluctantly, it was obvious leader stuff was about to be exchanged. Rebecca sat next to Jake making circles in the sand as she talked.

"What's up," Jake asked wondering what was going on.

"I wanted to talk to you about why those aliens are here. I figured I couldn't talk to Lee because he's always in his own little world on this trip and you just seemed more approachable." She said with a



laugh.

\_That still doesn't explain it. There are other leaders that she knows better as well, \_Jake thought.

"Okay well, my opinion is they were put here by the Covenant and our trainers don't know it." Jake said firmly.

"But don't you think they would have scouted this place out before dumping us here?" Rebecca said staring at Jake with her intense eyes.

"No they want us to get the rawest experience possible, to me," Jake replied. Something told Jake she wanted to know more than just his opinion on the aliens.

"True. Well either way we'll make it."

"Yeah we will." Jake said with a reassuring smile. As he was about to head back to his post she stopped him.

"So where do you come from?" She asked curiosity shining in her eyes.

"New York and you?" This was strange, she seemed to want to learn about Jake which no one has done except Jada.

"California home of the original liberals." She said with a giggle. To Jake it seemed like she liked him and actually had the courage to openly talk with him. Rebecca was a fine girl but he knew nothing of her except her rebellious streak to go against what was ordered which Jake found interesting considering their circumstance.

"Nice-," before he could finish his sentences a familiar guttural roar sounded raising the hair on the back of his neck.

Jake whipped around from Rebecca and stood up instantly ready to fight, Rebecca following. Across the river were four elites with a bigger one in front of them, the one that roared. They each had different types of armor but the biggest one was the most ornate with many ridges and details on his helmet. It was an Officer rank with Minors.

Loaded guns clicked behind Jake as all the members with guns stood ready to fight. The elites didn't even move but just looked at the trainees. Jake's stomach twisted as he looked them in the eyes. \_These are the monsters that kill humans like ants, \_he thought. Jake had a bad feeling about this meeting. "Hold your fire," Jake heard Lee yell.

The lead elite roared again and one of the minors left and came back with a dead grizzly bear over his shoulders. It had claw marks all along its neck showing where the elite killed him \_with bare hands! \_They tossed it onto the ground in front of them and slowly backed away.

"I need two people with DMRs posted in trees right now to watch their movements," Jake said immediately when they were gone. He turned to Rebecca whose eyes were wide with fear. It seemed like a vulnerable moment for her and she quickly looked away. "Come on Rebecca don't

worry. We need a meeting right now though." He said touching her on the shoulder and then jogging with her to where the alarmed kids were. \_This mission just got even more dangerous. And just when I thought it couldn't! \_Jake thought.

\* \* \*

><p><strong>Later that dayâ€|<strong>

Khan Riu leaped on to a rocky outcrop and aimed his Battle Rifle around. He went ahead of the group with Ricky Rivers to scout. At the leadership meeting yesterday after the standoff with the elites the leaders unanimously agreed on pulling back the scouting parties and just having two members at the front, back, and sides of the group. Khan and Ricky volunteered the front because no one else did. During their hike Khan actually got to learn about Ricky. Though the biggest trait Khan learned about was his very short temper which Khan took advantage of.

"So what if I punched you right now?" Khan asked knowing exactly what Ricky would say.

"I would knock your lights out then feed you to the wolves." He replied his voice raising. Khan was making him answer these questions for hours and he knew Ricky was too tired to actually do something about it. "And how about you focus on the freakin objective."

"Alright, alright I will. For now." Khan smirked and looked further out past the first line of trees. The undergrowth was beginning to clear out allowing light patches to show on the ground appearing like a big speckled cat. Khan could see a huge rock in the distance through his scope. Their next goal before resting which Lee seemed intent on reaching. "Let's keep moving."

Ricky whistled a tune all the trainees knew which let them know the path was clear. Khan and Ricky side by side, a few meters apart, moved forward guns ready when they heard a rustle to their right. Ricky whistled yet again as Khan and he took the safeties off their weapons aiming at the bush. They heard a growl as a gray wolf came out his ears back and teeth in a snarl.

"Stay still and don't shoot," Khan said "And do not look him in the eyes." Khan scanned behind him and could see no other wolves. "He's a loner and injured." He whispered to Ricky. There was a red gash across his flank that was clotted with dried blood.

Khan's stomach flipped as the wolf inched forward. \_What do we do?! I don't want to kill it! \_He yelled in his mind. Then to his left Khan saw Ricky's red shirt stand up and approach the wolf slowly.

"What are you doing?" Khan whispered as loud as he could.

Ricky didn't answer as he walked a little bit closer until he was ten feet from the wolf. Ricky then yelled as loud as he could. But the results were not what he expected. The wolf launched itself onto Ricky and tried to maul him but Khan shot it once in the head before it could do real damage. It rolled off Ricky like a log and he stood up slowly checking himself for injuries.

"You okay man?" Khan asked.

"Yeah just a few nicks and bruises." He said his eyes slightly widened from fear. "Thanks for saving me man I would've been dead meat."

"Yeah that was idiotic to do!" Khan said as Lee and Mary showed up weapons at the ready.

"What happened?" Lee asked looking at the dead wolf with concern.

"Ricky tried to be a hard ass yelled at the thing and then I had to kill it." Khan said with a dry laugh. Khan was actually pretty shaken up. He did not want to see one of his teammates killed.

"Ricky we'll pull you off the job someone will fill in for you." Mary said looking rather angry but even more worried.

"For what?" Ricky asked bluntly.

"We'll discuss it later." She said and walked away.

The three guys all looked at each other and just followed her back to the group.

\_This guy is crazy first he kills an elite and now almost gets killed by a wolf!\_ Khan thought and then voiced this to his brother Lee.

"I don't know but we'll have to watch him closely," Lee told Khan. "You can help me out with this."

"Sure," Khan said disdainfully. He didn't want to see the guy die but he didn't want to be a babysitter.

\* \* \*

><p><strong>As always read and review. :)<strong>

## 12. Finale

**\*\*Hey guys I'm back! I present not only my first major fight scene but also longest chapter!\*\***

**\*\*Enjoy!\*\***

\* \* \*

><p><strong>0700 hours, June 2545<strong>

Holly Madison sat under the huge rock to get shade from the rising sun. The team arrived here after making a night trek in panic with only flashlights. She could hear the creatures in the forest as they roamed around and Lee even had to give warning shots a few times to scare them.

They were finally getting a break at a huge rock in the middle of a clearing. The trees were clear for a few meters out, enough space for the whole party to sleep near each other. The trees were definitely

getting thicker so she could tell they were in the middle of the valley. Holly could smell so many different aromas it almost made her dizzy.

She was the only one up at this time so she sat there and thought about their situation. \_Why are the military doing this to us? We could die so easily against these monsters! They really want us to be serious about this military stuff. \_Holly thought this as she saw Jake wake up. \_Oh God, this is awkward!\_

But soon enough he approached her and sat next to her. "Hey, I just came to ask you something," Jake asked obviously sensing her discomfort.

Holly nodded not wanting to say a word.

"Well why did you one moment hate me then the next have googly eyes and now, yet again hate me?" He asked sounding almost exasperated. He obviously thought about this quite a bit.

"Because ever since that first day of Camp you've had that cocky look at me or anyone when you beat someone. I hate people like that."

"But that doesn't explain the googly eyes," He replied already knowing the reason she hated him.

She just stared at him and that look gave him enough information. As their eyes looked into each other something happened in both of them. It wasn't love, Holly was sure of that but it was something along those lines and somehow the exact opposite.

Jake and Holly both blushed as Jake left stumbled away. \_What just happened?! I don't even know how I feel about him anymore. \_She thought helplessly laying down trying to go back to sleep and forget it all.

\* \* \*

><p><strong>Later that dayâ€|<strong>

Holly shot at the Officer elite with her carbine like a mad woman. She was behind a tree avoiding the fire of the Officer. The elite killed someone from Blue Cabin when the group was just moving from the rock outcrop. It was able to pick up the deceased girl's gun after hitting her in the chest with a rock. During that moment all the members were in shock of the ambush.

Soon the elite was dead and the leaders went to the body preventing anyone from seeing. Holly's heart was heavy. No one ever expected a trainee to die yet it just happened. The entire group was silent, fear rising in them. Holly saw Lee Riu on his knees crying as Jake tried hard not to do the same. The other leaders were solemnly standing nearby.

After a moment they left the two Blue leaders and went straight to all the Blue Cabin members who already knew who it was. They were already either sobbing or just staring at the ground.

"Why!" Lee wailed from behind them. Holly's hair on her neck raised

from the wailing. She never wanted to hear something like that again.

The leaders then proceeded to the rest of the group.

"The one who lost her life to the monster we just slayed was... Kylie Heyde." Khan Riu announced his voice cracking.

Holly heard gasps as other members began to break down. Holly did not personally know her but that explained why Lee was devastated. They were always seen together and some said they were even dating. Holly felt anger as she thought about their trainers allowing this. It depressed Holly and she did not want to continue this nightmare of a trip.

"We must keep moving. We will honor Kylie at this moment," Khan continued. With that everyone went near the body and some of the kids almost vomited from the site. Her face looked calm despite the dent in her chest.

Lee stayed in the same position as Jake stepped in front of everybody. "Today we honor our first and hopefully last fallen member of Camp Semper Fi. She was a shining star in many of our lives every day we woke up in Camp and we hope she still shines bright wherever she is now." He finished hesitantly.

"Let's get a move on," Damien ordered pulling everyone from the scene. Holly looked back as Khan went to talk to Lee.

\_This trip just got a lot harder, \_Holly thought.

\* \* \*

><p>Lee looked at his watch to see it was 1000 hours. It felt like Kylie's death had happened seconds ago. His heart ached each time he thought of it, which was all the time. He didn't like the idea of Kylie being with everyone on this trip. She was capable but if he could, Lee would've made her stay at Camp. And each second of the day he couldn't stop thinking, <em>it is all my fault.</em>

As the group traveled closer to the LZ they were all dead silent out of sorrow or alertness it wasn't known but Lee could feel it in the air. The only person who could talk to him about anything was Khan. Khan just told him some encouraging words every now and then which helped Lee little but he appreciated it.

As the group began to get closer to the LZ the trees thinned out and the valley wall was getting closer and closer to their right. The bird chirps died down near this area but Lee was oblivious.

A whistle sounded and Lee knew that was one of the scouts up ahead. Jake went to meet them and bring them back to the leaders.

It was a Red Cabin member girl that began talking, "We saw a huge cave with what appeared to be deer skeletons outside of it. It reeked of carrion but there was nothing in sight."

Lee had a budding idea of whose lair this was but did not have the energy to pursue the idea, he could not think of anything but Kylie.

"Couldn't be a bear," Connor said. He was at home in these forests and had been micromanaging the whole trek with advice on where to go and what to eat. They would probably be dead without him. Strangely Kingston didn't say a word. It was obvious Connor was taking lead of the Blades. "Show me this cage," He said to the scout. They left and Alexia turned to the group.

"It's gotta be the Elites. It might be their home base." She said this with edge to her voice. With this comment something stirred in Lee. A deep anger in him that almost hurt.

"If it is them," Lee spoke up his voice cracking from little use, "then they're dead."

Everyone looked at him with wide eyes until a huge roar sounded near them. Lee turned to see an elite running straight toward him but before the elite could even reach him lead filled his body in a millisecond.

"Form up into pods!" Jake ordered as every one turned back to back in pods of five or six. Lee and the other leaders did the same as they had their weapons ready. Lee heard a yell and gunshots in the direction of the caves.

"It's Connor!" Kingston yelled but he didn't budge. Lee and Jake went into a dead sprint forgetting about the others as they crashed through the thin tree line.

Soon they arrived to a huge cave opening in the side of the valley. In front of the cave was a terrible sight. Connor and the scout girl from Red Cabin were behind a freshly fallen log hiding from a line of elites. There was only one elite on the ground dead. There were nine of them coming from the cave but they had weapons, human ones. The trainees could not see Jake and Lee.

"They found the depots," Jake told Lee, dread in his eyes.

"Alright but-," as soon as Lee was about to finish his sentence an Elite grabbed him by the back of the neck. He flailed around as the Elite kicked Jake aside like a fly.

The elite turned Lee so he could see the fear in his eyes. It grumbled something to Lee. His grip began to tighten around Lee's neck. Lee's eyesight began to flicker as he tried to hold on to his life and kick the alien down with little success. Lee began to go through all his memories and painfully through his most recent ones and he almost wanted the elite to kill him but as he thought this the elite fell to the ground dropping Lee as well.

Dizzy, Lee got up to see the elite's purple blood pouring from two wounds in his back. He looked slowly up to see Ricky and Ryan moving toward Lee quickly.

"Why are you here?" Lee asked slowly. It was obvious his mind was going back to Kylie as he saw no danger nearby.

"Mary sent us to back you up, you needed it." Ryan replied his voice trembling. Ricky saw Jake a little ways off and went to tend to him.

Lee nodded as he slowly stood up. He could not let his team down. He picked up his assault rifle and cocked it. "Is Jake okay?"

"Yeah I just got the wind knocked out of me and I think a few broken ribs," Jake himself said standing up.

"Okay good," Lee replied. "So Connor and his partner are hiding behind a log from a lot of Elites. I need Ryan and Ricky to take some shelter on one of their flanks while Jake and I go backup Connor." Lee still had a good view of the scene and the Elites were getting closer. The Red Cabin members nodded and went off to the right.

\_This is the Elite's last strike, they are gonna kill or be killed.\_

\* \* \*

><p>Ryan Dyvers followed Ricky as they went to the right of the standoff happening near the tree. He was scared out of his mind but he knew this would save his friends and that was the only thing holding him back from running from this miniature hell.<p>

They crept through the light undergrowth and finally got to the side of the cave where the trees broke off before touching the rock wall. All the two boys had as cover was a boulder that barely covered the both of them. The elites were getting closer and closer to Connor.

"Why don't they just kill them?" Ricky asked this with malice in his voice.

"Simple, they want to scare the living daylights out of them first."

Ryan then saw Jake and Lee crawl to the log unseen by the elites. The fighting would start as soon as Ryan or Ricky shot. Ryan aimed first since he had the battle rifle and zoomed on the closest Elite's head. He pulled the trigger and the recoil of three bullets kicked as they flew into the monster's head. This alerted the aliens who immediately began firing at the two Red Cabin members. They buckled down behind the cover as bullets whizzed by.

All Ryan could do was pray he didn't get hit by the barrage as he looked over to see Ricky with a scowl on his face. He saw an elite without a weapon coming at them the opposite way of the gunfire. He gunned it down and reloaded quickly.

"They must have the others surrounded," Ricky said.

"And this firefight alerted them." As Ryan said that the gunshots that were hitting the rock stopped. Ryan took a peek to see that the Elites were all dead and saw the trainees were okay.

Ryan and Ricky ran to the guys and told them their revelation. "Okay we have to go and tell them because there's no way we can find each of the Elites that are hiding."

The group began to move back to the main group with Torri limping

slightly from a few bullet nicks. As they arrived to the clearing guns immediately pulled up on them but were relaxed an instant later.

Mary ran to them and asked them what happened. They told her the story and she followed with hers.

"We saw they were surrounding us and trying to push us closer together but we routed them out. So is that all of them?"

"We believe so but we should just head to the LZ, it's almost noon." Lee said as he looked at his map. "We will be moving immediately back on our course."

Soon Ryan and Ricky were behind the group making sure no one got picked off. The group was at a jog right now and Ryan felt as though they should be at a full sprint to the LZ.

"You think it was that easy?" Ricky asked. He seemed to be thinking like Ryan.

"No I don't something feels wrong," he heaved. The jog was starting to tire him out. They had been at this jog for about fifty minutes.

Ryan weaved between two trees as he kept up with Ricky. The whole group was doing this so they had a straight path to the LZ. Ryan believed they would make it since it was currently 11:30 and the ships was to arrive at 12:00.

The group made it to the LZ without a hitch and were ten minutes early. Ryan was still on edge though. \_Where was that Officer? \_He thought, he didn't want to ruin everyone's high spirits though. The trainees were ready to get back to Camp. They chattered happily and without worry. Ryan and Ricky sat in the middle of the clearing.

Ryan saw a shimmer float up behind Kingston who was near the tree line and Ryan immediately shot at it. What appeared was a large Spec Ops Elite that fell to the ground causing Kingston to panic and shoot at the dead body more. Ricky who was next to Ryan shot at a blank space which was really a now dead elite.

Ryan turned to see the Officer hit Lee in the chest propelling him back a few feet. The kids tired and demoralized by this ambush began to run to the trees. The only people standing in the clearing ready to fight were Ryan, Ricky, Mary, and Yuri who stood their ground closer to the Officer than Ryan or Ricky.

The Officer had a shimmering cloak around his armor which appeared to be a shield that made all of Yuri and Mary's bullets bounce away but Ryan was torn away from that scene to see another Spec Ops Elite about to clobber him. He ducked to the ground and Ricky shot the alien all over his chest dropping him right next to Ryan.

"Thanks," Ryan said and got back up to see Mary was on the ground unconscious as the elite laughed. Yuri was next but both Ryan and Ricky began to move forward on him using everything they got on it. They reloaded but with that the elite turned his attention to the boys but it was too late, Ryan pierced the shield and it's jaw as



Ricky took it's legs out.

Ryan ran to Yuri as Ricky went to Mary. As they did what they could the Pelicans landed and medics came running to help them. The other kids began to cautiously come back to the clearing ashamed that they were scared so easily. As the medics took the two girls away the Red Cabin boys got on their Pelican silently worrying for the girl's safety.

The ride back to camp was silent as the members of each Cabin thought about what happened and why they were put through this. Ricky had fallen asleep next to Ryan as he sat thinking,

\_What did we do to deserve this God?\_

\* \* \*

><p><strong>How was the fighting and did the trainees at the end of the chapter running in fright seem bizarre? Review to tell me!  
<strong>

\*\*Hope you enjoyed!\*\*

### 13. Recovery

\*\*0900 hours, June 2545\*\*

Staff Sergeant Griff sat in his bare and cold office. He looked at his wooden desk that had a computer and nothing more. No memories from his life away from the military. \_My wife already divorced me and my siblings all died in the line of duty. But I have at least one thing to live for my; daughter. \_He smiled at that thought.

Griff always kept his daughter in his mind, sometimes the only motivation he had in trying to make it through this war. \_Not only her though, these kids are my motivation, I have to see them through. They must succeed for all the things they've been through. \_He thought as he reviewed their performance in the forest. It sickened him that they had provided those elites and that the aliens killed one trainee and nearly killed countless more. The brass may have ordered it but he could've at least voiced his opinion but he let it slide and that would be on his shoulders for the rest of his life.

A knock on his door sounded, startling him. "Come in," he said composing himself. It was his \_best friend\_ the ONI operative along with the three Spartans. The ONI operative dropped a file on his desk the title saying, "Classified Procedures: Phase One".

"It's time we discuss the procedures to be done on our young Spartans," he said a grin on his face, he seemed excited to see what else these kids could take. They were a tough bunch but that didn't change anything. Griff looked at the others in front of the desk to see their faces almost contorted in anger what was to happen, they experienced it first hand.

\* \* \*

><p><strong>0800 hours, August 2545<strong>

The campers were heading to the garage for a surprise drill and Leven was the only one excited in the Fighters Cabin. Leven looked around to see the trees beginning to shed yet again. He had lived in this forest for two years now and he was already bored of it, which was either caused by his ADHD or his need to play video games. Luckily when he got the chance (which was not a lot) he would go to the garage and inspect all the different vehicles, he was sure he could put together most of them with just a few glances at the blueprint. \_My parents were both the exact opposite of grease monkeys they would hate seeing me get all greasy and dirty, \_Leven thought with a sad smile. Looking over to Sara Lowenstein he could see she was curious as much as him.

Cliffton led them around the front to the back where the garage doors were and there in a huge clearing the size of a grav ball stadium were ditches and mounds of dirt in a curvy path, it looked like old motocross tracks from a long time in the past. Parked at what looked like the start of the path were five mongooses. \_A race! \_Was Leven's instant thought and it made him even more excited.

Cliffton turned around as the other LCs did the same. The Staff Sergeant Griff was there also and he stepped up to the filed Cabins. "Welcome to the Racetrack. The rules are simple; two people from each Cabin onto the four-wheeled mongooses the person on the back gets an assault rifle with paintball rounds. Whoever gets there first will get double rations as well as a free day of training." He grinned after saying that and all the campers yelled in glee.

\_No way, I didn't think days off existed here! \_Leven thought and he knew he should be the driver.

"You've got two minutes to decide who will be the driver and who will be the gunner." Griff finished.

Alexia, their de facto leader, pulled the cabin in close. "Okay so I think Ethan should drive and Gavin should shoot. Any objections?"

Leven looked at Rebecca who was standing near Alexia and they both made a silent agreement. Leven raised his hand, "Actually I think I should drive and Rebecca should shoot." His voice trembled as everyone looked at him.

"I believe that is a more effective teaming as well," Rebecca chimed in with a smile.

Alexia looked at both of them hesitantly, "Oh sure, I trust you Rebecca."

"What! You're playing favorites Alexia!" Gavin yelled still the big lovable bully as ever.

"Favorites? This isn't the fourth grade," Rebecca replied faster than Alexia. "What she says goes."

Gavin looked steaming but he said nothing knowing that Alexia did know best. Leven let out a smirk as he led the way to the mongoose the other Cabins doing the same. He got on it and started the engine thinking of the specs while Rebecca got on the back. They both put on the helmets- their only piece of protection.

"I know you're good with vehicles but driving them is kind of different," she said showing she was not so confident in the decision.

"Look let me drive and you worry about shooting the people behind us."

Griff went to the start line with his pistol and fired into the sky. Leven immediately stomped on the gas. He heard a gasp behind him as he smirked feeling the power in his hands.

He took the first jump a little too fast and nearly missed the first turn meanwhile Rebecca was keeping one of the racers behind them busy. Up ahead the Strikers were taking the lead and was trying to get a shot on Leven. "Not so fast hermano," Leven said as he zigzagged dodging the bullets as he gained ground. A jump was coming up and the Strikers took off past Leven but at the jump he pulled back as hard as he could resulting in a higher jump. He flew over the Strikers taking the lead as Rebecca yelled barely staying put.

Leven took the next turn smoothly revving the engine getting his speed back up. Rebecca was still taking potshots at their pursuers, "You good back there," he asked her as they blurred past trees and the sound of gunfire sounded behind him.

"A little shaken up but I'll make it, you seem to be doing good," she responded breathing heavily.

"Yeah this is," Leven turned right before answering, "great!"

"Look out!" Rebecca said as something hit his mongoose and they nearly tipped over as they flew over the tiny bumps on the track. Pulling up next to Leven was the Titan racers and they looked like they wanted blood.

Leven saw a wide left turn coming up and thought of something crazy. "Whatever you do Rebecca don't panic," was all Leven said as he ducked under some paintballs the Titan was shooting.

Leven took the turn like any other and pulled ahead of the Titan slightly. Looking back the gunner was reloading same as Rebecca and so Leven took the opportunity. Slowing down Leven stood up on the four wheeler as the driver looked toward him in surprise. Leven balanced both feet on one side of the mongoose still steering. With one leg Leven kicked the driver successfully knocking them off the course. Leven got back onto the mongoose correctly.

"What the hell were you thinking!" Rebecca yelled in his ear.

"I was thinking I could look cool as we won chica," he said stopping as they passed the finish line which was a few meters from the start.

"You could've cost us the race or got hurt!" She yelled pushing him. But then she hugged him roughly, "But I'm glad your okay."

Leven slightly blushing hugged her back, "We both did it." The Fighters ran over to them and lifted them to the sky on their shoulders yelling in victory.

\* \* \*

><p>Ricky Rivers woke up angry. First off he was angry because those punk Fighters had their day off and secondly he was the gunner for the Reds and was shot off in the middle of the race frozen useless. <em>Everyone's telling me it's fine but no it isn't. Red Cabin has been the butt of all the jokes in Camp and it won't stop until we establish ourselves! <em>He thought as he went to the showers.

When he got out Alexia went to him, "Better?" She asked concern in her eyes.

"Sure," was Ricky's only response as they got in to a line to head to the sparring cage. Alexia only looked at him then went into line as well.

"Don't take everything so personally Ricky we will get our recognition soon," Ryan said standing next to him.

Before Ricky could reply LC Salim stepped in and led the way to the cage. When there they went to their usual spot to watch the fight. "Lee Riu and Ricky Rivers first up," the intercom said.

Red Cabin cheered on Ricky on, he was their best fighter. And Lee was Blue Cabin's best.

Ricky stepped into the cage and went to the dirt clearing in between a few trees with low hanging branches. The fights didn't usually leave this area which confused many of the campers for why the cage was so big.

Ricky looked across the cage to Lee who looked like he usually did except Ricky could tell he was off. \_Could it possibly be Kylie's death on his mind? \_Ricky thought but he knew Lee could still fights he wouldn't take it easy.

As the bell rang Ricky ran to Lee and hit him with a left-right combo that Lee barely blocked. Ricky then did a sweep kick which knocked Lee down. Ricky jumped on him and tried to get some hits on his head but Lee pushed him off and kicked Ricky right in the gut.

Groaning Ricky got up slowly and caught his breath. \_Lee doesn't give people this chance, \_Ricky thought as he hesitated in fighting him back knowing something was off. \_His head still isn't in the game, \_Ricky thought.

"Take him out!" someone from his cabin yelled. Ricky went in for a tackle knowing Lee had more reach than him. On the ground yet again he began to hit with all his might getting good body shots on Lee who looked pretty passive although he kicked Ricky off and allowed him to stand yet again.

"Fight me Lee. Give me a challenge," Ricky said quietly, his stance ready to defend.

"This doesn't matter in the long run. Sooner or later we're going to die and no one who cares for you will know," Lee replied his brown eyes looking tired.

"That's a lie because **\*\*we \*\*care**. I know why you feel like this. It's about Kylie. I know you're still grieving her but she wouldn't want to see you like this," Ricky said hearing the campers jeering them on to fight.

"You didn't even talk to her so **\*\*do not \*\*claim that**," Lee yelled running straight at Ricky. Shaking his head at the sloppy attack Ricky dodged it easily and pushed Lee to the ground and hit him to the point where he could barely keep his eyes open.

The crowd cheered but Ricky didn't feel too good about his win. It wasn't fair and Lee, the usual calculated leader was a wreck. I'll tell Jake, \_he thought.

Once he dragged Lee out of the cage he walked past his excited team straight to Jake as the Titans looked on in surprise.

"We have to talk in private now," Ricky said forcefully grabbing him by the collar and pulling him a little ways from the group of stunned students. They went under a tree.

"What's all this about?" Jake asked pushing Ricky off of him.

"Lee. He is a shell of his former self! Have you even noticed?"

"Of course I have, we all have but whatever we try it doesn't work!" Jake's face turned slightly red. Ricky relaxed. He really is trying, \_he thought sympathetically.

"Well, keep trying. Whatever you need to do. Kylie's death was months ago and he can't dwell on it this long. It's dangerous," Ricky's voice down to a whisper. Ricky nodded to Jake and then turned around and went back to the Red Cabin's bleachers where they were more concerned about what he went to do than his recent win. Mary and Ryan went to Ricky telling the others to back off.

"What was that?" Ryan asked.

"Nothing you need to worry about," Ricky snapped walking away.

He headed down the jogging trail that weaved through camp and the wild forest. The sun was nearing it's peak warming up the chilly air. The leaves were beginning to fall in shades of oranges and browns across the forest floor though the pine trees kept decent shade.

Deep in thought flashes of a kid who looked like Ricky appeared in his mind. Yelling he shook his head trying to get rid of the mental image. The scene then showed up in his mind.

Ricky sat in a hospital waiting room with his mother. She was in tears and Ricky was only ten at the time. All he could do was rub his mother's back to comfort her. His brother was sent there before him and was in those doors. A doctor walked in from the doors and she got up quickly. He spoke to her in a low voices. Ricky caught words like "laceration" and "too late". His mom began weeping and Ricky knew something was wrong.

Ricky snapped out of it feeling like that was a nightmare but it happened. Wiping his tears away he kept walking.

\* \* \*

><p><strong>I'm back! Its been too long and I hope I can get you guys trust back. School and band have been crazy but hopefully I can get back into some kind of groove! Welcome back to the story!<strong>

#### 14. Announcement from Author

\*\*A few days ago I realized that every time I update a chapter It updates the entire story and puts it on the front pages xD. New and old readers, I've been going over this old story editing it to perfection and changing a few timeline things but not changing anything major from before. I suddenly had the urge to write again and this tory came to mind. Sadly, I lost the USB with this story on it so I'm reconstructing the story with what is already written. As soon as I'm done editing these previous chapters look forward to new chapters! Sorry for any confusion! \*\*

End  
file.